



January Newsletter in the Year of Our Lord 2022

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

Finally be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” Ephesians 6:10

Every day we read or hear about shots and booster shots for the coronavirus. Now with winter approaching another shot is being promoted. Such a shot offers some protection against that malady known as the “flu.” But not totally, since different strains of flu may still hit us.

After years of fighting the devil’s temptations, you’d think he would finally leave us alone. Instead he steps up his attacks on our faith, telling us not to trust God so much. Or to shift our trust from God’s promises to wondering if divine help is real. He even flashes the grim specter of the grave before our eyes to try and close the door on our hope in Christ’s emptied tomb. Often he succeeds and we suffer from a bad case of the spiritual flu.

What to do? Paul tells us. He urges us, “Get your spiritual flu shot.” Such an inoculation is not found at our neighborhood pharmacy, but in God’s Word with its empowering promises. The more we hear that Word assuring us that the blood of his Son purifies us from all sin and that there are rooms waiting for us in the Father’s house, the more we will become immune to the flu of sin. “Flu shots” we need annually. “Spiritual shots” from God’s Word we need again and again.

Your partner in coming regularly this new year to our pharmacy (church) for flu shots of Jesus’ power,

Pastor Richard E. Lauersdorf



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, in November to live a life for others and in December to “live a life of hospitality.” Our focus January 15/16th will be to “Live Shrewdly”. If you missed previous themes, you can view the video and download a summary of those stewardship encouragements along with a challenge card at our website www.goodshepherdwels.org.



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.

Christmas Services

“Come celebrate the birth of our King!”

Children’s Christmas Services Sunday, December 19th at 4:00 & 6:00 pm

(If you are able, please park across the street at Little Lambs to leave more spaces for the elderly and our guests. Be careful not to park over the sidewalk on Decorah Ave.)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24 at 5:00 & 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. Both services are the same.

Christmas Day Festival Service

December 25th 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 Study at 9:15 am, beginning January 2nd (7 sessions) **“Cherish the Life of Christ” an in-depth study of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Learn how Christ’s life impacts yours, for good.** Co-led by Pastor Matt Mueller and Pastor Robert Hein in the Fellowship Hall.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES

New Year, New Life Monday evenings at 7:00 starting January 3rd. **“Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.”** The angel set the apostles free from the public jail with those instructions. The Gospel of Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension gives us more than just forgiveness and the hope of heaven. Already now the Word also plants in us **“the life that is really life.”** Jesus declared that to be his purpose for coming into this world. Enter the New Year hungry for more of that new life that comes through the written Word. 5 lessons. Led by Pastor John Paustian

New Bible Information Class—“Our New Life with Jesus” Monday nights at 7:00 pm, beginning January 3rd.

This course covers the key truths of Christianity, a refresher course for our members and an introduction to the Bible for those looking for a church home. This 13 session course serves as our Adult membership class. There is no cost or obligation to join. To register, contact the church office at 334-7881. Led by Pastor Robert Hein in the Fireside Room.

Our **Wednesday Morning Bible Class** meets in church from 9:00-10:00 am. Our topic is “The Twelve” focusing on the 12 disciples. Our Bible Class family will make you feel at home. Led by Pastor Richard E. Lauersdorf. No Class December 29th or January 5th.

Friday Women’s Bible Study – Fridays at 8:00 am when school is in session. Calling women of all ages! We will be studying the little known book of the Bible, Habakkuk: Remembering God’s Faithfulness When He seems Silent. Taught by Marilyn Sievert.



Griefshare Support Group - 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 can join our GriefShare support group mid-session. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room, now through February 3rd. The group will not meet on December 27th. Cost: \$10 for the participant workbook. For more information, contact Pastor Paustian.

Our worship schedule for Sunday, December 26th and Sunday January 2nd is worship at 8:00 & 10:30 am. There is no Saturday evening worship on Christmas Day or New Year’s Day. 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 26th. These resume January 2nd. Saturday worship in January will resume January 8th at 4:00* & 5:00 pm.

Sacred Concerts & Special Events

The Branches Band, a WELS contemporary musical group, will play at our worship services January 15-16th. CD’s of their music will be available for purchase and a freewill offering will be gathered to support their music ministry.

KML Percussion Concert is Saturday, January 15th at 6:30 pm at the KML Performing Arts Center. All are invited.

Retirement Celebration – Pastor John Paustian has announced his retirement at the end of January. He will preach January 29/30th and we will honor him for his 40+ years of faithful service in the public ministry with a reception in his honor between Sunday services in place of Bible class. Treats and refreshments will be served.

Good Shepherd Marriage Enrichment Night will be held Valentines Day Weekend, Friday, February 11th from 6:00-9:00 pm. Look for further details to come.

Mission Festival – Missionary Greg Bey who has served our world mission speaker in Indonesia will be a our guest preacher for Mission Festival Sunday, February 13th at 8:00 and 10:30 am, and he will give a mission presentation in the Fellowship Hall for everyone at 9:15 am. Come, learn about the exciting opportunities to share the Gospel throughout the world!

Men of his Word Conference – Saturday, February 19, 2022 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. Theme – More Than Conquerors. All men invited! Music by Koine. To learn more or to register, go to www.menofhisword.org. Contact Pastor Hein for carpool planning.

Coming January 29th: Bible Reading Plans and Strategies with Marilyn Sievert and Pastor Paustian. There will be coffee, juice, and pastries. Sign up online to attend and also to request childcare .



Service and Fellowship Opportunities

Christmas Tree Take Down - Volunteers are needed to take down our church Christmas tree, Wednesday, January 5th at 10:00 am. Contact Ron Kempf for more information. Thanks to all our volunteers who have helped beautify our church for Christmas.

Christmas flowers may be taken home following the 9:00 am Christmas Day service.

Weather Updates - Check out Fox News #6 or our website for any Good Shepherd delays or cancellations.

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!

Christmas card covers may be brought to the blue bin in the narthex for use for Prison Ministry.

Thanks to the many wonderful volunteers who helped make Christmas for Kids a wonderful success. 135 children from our church and community were registered. Now we can invite these families to events at Good Shepherd.

Food & Clothing Donations will now be gathered in special bins located in the Fellowship Hall rather than in the Welcome Center. Thanks for all your donations for our Thanksgiving Food Drive to our local food pantry. You may bring non perishable food items to the bins in the Fellowship Hall anytime to support Northside Ministries.

2022 Offering envelopes will be available around Christmas in the narthex. Since your envelope number may change, please don't use new envelopes in 2021 or old offering envelopes in 2022.

Getting to Know Our New Pastor

Pastor Matt Mueller is the son of Pastor Tim and Sue Mueller of St. John's in Watertown, WI. He was born December 1, 1988. He grew up in Waupun, Medford, and Watertown, WI.

Pastor Mueller went to high school at Luther Preparatory School, where he met his wife Holly. They graduated Luther Prep in 2007. From there they both attended Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN. They graduated in 2011; Holly with an Early Childhood Education degree while Pastor Mueller continued to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary graduating in 2015.



From the seminary Pastor Mueller was assigned to Living Hope Lutheran Church in Peoria IL. He served there for six years. He filled a vacancy at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Burlington, IA for three years and was the circuit pastor for his area.

Pastor Mueller and Holly have five children. Lilie(9), Matthew(8), Eli(6), Daisy(4), and Ivy(1). The family enjoys the outdoors including hiking, boating, fishing, hunting, swimming, and the beach.

"We hope to be a blessing to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School as we grow spiritually, serve God, and share Jesus together." - Pastor Matt Mueller

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. 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 "offering" 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.

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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www.goodshepherdwels.org

Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran—West Bend, WI

Pre-call Discussions – Since Pastor Paustian is retiring the end of January, our leaders, in January, will begin pre-call discussions to refine the job description to call for a third full time pastor.

Preschool/Kindergarten Open Houses Would you like to find out more about our Preschool and Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year? Come to our Open House to find out more! **Preschool 3 Tuesday, January 18th from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Preschool 4 Thursday, January 20th from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm and Kindergarten Saturday, January 22nd from 9:00-10:30 am.** Register online at www.goodshepherdwels.org/pkoh. Call the school office at 334-7881 for more information. Tell your unchurched friends and neighbors! Also ask about our Parental Choice program.

BUILDING Update We are grateful that **PeopleConnections** 242 families/individuals have promised \$863,350 towards our Building People Connections campaign to reduce or eliminate our \$1.2 million expansion mortgage. \$654,811 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.

Special Gifts

In memory of Loran Schultz from family and friends

\$650 for WELS World Missions, Malawi

\$220 for KML Tuition Assistance

\$1730 for Good Shepherd School Tuition Assistance

\$25 for Little Lambs Childcare

\$25 for the General Fund

\$150 for Good Shepherd Lutheran School

\$100 for Debt Retirement

\$115 for Building Connections

\$40 from Bethany Lutheran, Kenosha Faculty in memory of Loran Schultz

\$20 from Arline Justman in memory of Ardis Pribnow for Good Shepherd Lutheran School

In memory of Jane Barnes from family and friends

\$70 for Building Connections

\$875 for Good Shepherd School Tuition Assistance

\$935 for Little Lambs Childcare

\$40 in memory of June Bognar for staff and kids Christmas gifts

\$500 from Doug and Karen Wilson in memory of Florence Enderle for Building Connections

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 No Saturday Worship
2 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	3 No School - Christmas Break 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	4 No School - Christmas Break	5 No School - Christmas Break 10:00 am Christmas Tree Takedown	6 School Resumes 6:30 pm Griefshare	7 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	8 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast 4:00 pm Communion Worship (Masks) 5:00 pm Communion Worship
9 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Communion Worship	10 5:30 pm School Board 6:00 pm Pioneers 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	11	12 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir 6:30 pm Public School Catechism	13 6:30 pm Griefshare	14 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	15 8:00 am Leadership Seminar 4:00 pm Worship (Masks) 5:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm KML Percussion Invitational Concert
16 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	17 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	18 11:00 am Preschool 3 Open House 6:30 pm Coordinating Council	19 8:00 am Newsletter Mailing 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir 6:30 pm Public School Catechism	20 11:00 am Preschool 4 Open House 6:30 pm Griefshare	21 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	22 9:00 am Kindergarten Open House 4:00 pm Communion Worship (Masks) 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 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	25 6:30 pm Goal Meeting	26 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 pm Adult Bell Choir 6:30 pm Public School Catechism	27 6:30 pm Griefshare	28 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	29 8:00 am Bible Reading Plan Presentation 4:00 pm Worship (Masks) 5:00 pm Worship
30 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Service	31 7:00 pm Bible Information Class					