

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| | 1 Happy New Year! | 2 | 3 9:00 am – Take down Christmas Tree 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study | 4 6:30 pm Bible Class | 5 | 6 5:00 pm Worship |
| 7 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship | 8 School Resumes 6:30 pm Bible Info Class | 9 9:30 am Ladies League 6:00 pm Jesus Cares Worship 7:00 pm Ladies League | 10 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:15 pm Adult Bell Choir 6:30 pm Public School Catechism 7:30 pm Adult Choir: Rehearsal | 11 6:30 pm Bible Class | 12 8:00 am Women's Bible Study | 13 8:00 am Congregational Bible Breakfast 5:00 pm Communion Worship 6:30 pm KML Percussion Concert |
| 14 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Communion Worship | 15 6:00 pm Pioneers 6:30 pm Bible Info Class | 16 6:30 pm Coordinating Council | 17 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:15 pm Adult Bell Choir 6:30 pm Public School Catechism 7:30 pm Adult Choir: Rehearsal | 18 6:30 pm Bible Class | 19 8:00 am Women's Bible Study | 20 5:00 pm Worship |
| 21 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship | 22 6:30 pm Bible Info Class | 23 | 24 8:00 am Newsletter Mailing 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:15 pm Adult Bell Choir 6:30 pm Public School Catechism 7:30 pm Adult Choir: Rehearsal | 25 6:30 pm Bible Class | 26 8:00 am Women's Bible Study | 27 9:00 am Gym Playday 9:00 am Spiritual Gifts Discovery Workshop 5:00 pm Communion Worship |
| 28 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Family Bible Study 10:30 am Communion Worship 1:00 pm Shepherd Youth Event | 29 | 30 6:30 pm GOAL Meeting | 31 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:15 pm Adult Bell Choir 6:30 pm Public School Catechism 7:30 pm Adult Choir: Rehearsal | | | |

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



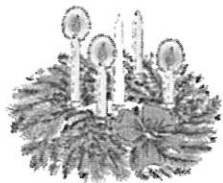
The shepherds told the story, they spread the word around. To those who first received it, it brought amazing sound. Today, we like the shepherds proclaim the Savior's birth. Our mission is to go and tell, good news through all the earth!

I love that poem taken from one of our children's Christmas services. It reminds us that the good news of Jesus is a message to joyfully embrace and to eagerly share with others. That's the impact Jesus' birth had on those Bethlehem shepherds on Christmas Eve. They were privileged to be the first to hear the good news that, "Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the LORD!" The Holy Spirit led those shepherds to receive this good news with confident faith and to go and worship the Christ child with joy.

But this good news was too glorious to keep to themselves. They spread the word to their friends and neighbors, bring light to a sin darkened world.

Today, it is our great joy to share the good news of Jesus with our family, friends and co-workers. Studies indicate that unchurched people are more likely to accept an invitation to worship at Christmas or Easter more than other time of the year. Make the most of this opportunity to invite the people God has placed into your life to celebrate Christmas with us at Good Shepherd. Just like those shepherds, let's take this good news to heart personally, worship our Lord with joy, and then tell others what a difference Jesus's coming makes in our lives. Yes, today too, our mission is to go and tell, good news through all the earth!

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Robert Hein



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

Christmas Services

Children's Christmas Service - "What a Story!"
Sunday, December 17th at 1:30 & 4:00 pm

(If possible, 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
Sunday, December 24th at 5:00 pm & 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
Monday, December 25th at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve Communion Worship
Sunday, December 31st at 5:00 pm
 Thank God for his blessings in the old year and seek his guidance in the new!

Holiday weekend worship schedule - As you come for special holiday worship services, make sure not to miss out on our regular weekend worship opportunities:

Saturday, **December 23** at 5:00 pm

Sunday, **December 24** at 8:00 & 10:30 am, (weekend services are different than the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services),

Saturday, **December 30** at 5:00 pm and

Sunday, **December 31** at 8:00 & 10:30 am. (weekend services different from New Year's Eve). **There will be no Sunday School or Bible Study December 24 or 31.**



**Opportunities to Grow
through the Word**
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES at 9:15 am

Jesus Shines Forth – Sunday Bible study resumes on **January 7** at 9:15 am. Led by Pastor Hein, this one week study will survey and introduce the season of Epiphany where “Jesus Shines Forth” as the Savior of the whole world, true God and true man.

“A Time for Everything” (January 14-February 4)
Matching our stewardship topic from church, Pastor Schlicht will lead a 4-week study on our management of time. “These Bible studies will not just dive deeper into the Sunday morning focus, but foster interactive ways for you to assess your management of time both as an individual and as a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran. All are welcome! No prior knowledge or experience is required, just come!” – Pastor Schlicht

Youth Bible Class: Mark your calendars - **January 7, February 4, March 3, April 7 & 28;** 9:15-10:15 am in the 6th Grade Classroom. All 8th-12th graders are invited.

Sunday School is a great way to teach your children the wonderful stories of the Bible. Start bringing your PreK - 7th grade children to Sunday School so they can learn all these stories from the Bible. No Class December 24 & 31st.



Weekday Bible Studies

Our new Bible Information Class, “Our New Life with Jesus” will be held Monday nights at 6:30 pm, beginning **January 8th**. (13 Sessions) This course covers the fundamental teachings of the Bible--a refresher course for our members and a great introduction to the Bible for those who would like to learn more or may be looking for a church home. This course serves as our Adult membership class. There is no cost or obligation to join. Come and learn more. Invite a friend or family member to join you. To register, contact the church office at 334-7881. Led by Pastor Robert Hein.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class is held at 9:00 am beginning **January 3rd**. Our topic is: “Luther's Small Catechism is a treasure.” It explains in memorable language the Six Chief Parts of Christian doctrine. Many of us still have the catechism we used for confirmation class. But the catechism isn't just for children! Even Christians in their ninth and tenth decades of life will benefit from reviewing the catechism's explanations of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and the

New Sermon Series

“A Time for Everything”



- January 14 - A Time to PRIORITIZE
- January 21 - A Time for PERSPECTIVE
- January 28 - A Time to PLAN
- February 4 - A Time to PAUSE

Stewardship is the lifelong management of all the resources God has given us. That includes a quickly-depleting resource called “time.” So much competes for it. In fact, without taking the time to manage our time, our precious years are often wasted on trivial things. “A Time for Everything” is a service series that helps us use the precious time we have left in our lives for God’s glory, our spiritual best, and the love of our friends, families, and neighbors.

A Congregational Bible Breakfast will be held Saturday, **January 13** from 8:00-9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Karen Fischer from Christian Family Solutions will offer a presentation on the topic - "Managing stress and anxiety." Are you feeling



overwhelmed with life and looking for some relief? Would you like to know how to prevent stress overload, or how to help others in time of need? This presentation will review various strategies and techniques to manage stress and anxiety. Everyone is welcome to attend! Children are welcome to eat with their parents and then childcare will be provided for them. Please register in the Welcome Center and indicate how many of your children need childcare. Also, indicate if you are willing to help set up and serve.



GRIEF SHARE is a support group for people who have lost a loved one. The new sessions begin Tuesday, **January 23rd** at 6:30 pm, held at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Contact their church office at 262-334-9892 to register. Led by Pastor John Paustian.

Lord's Prayer, as well as the Use of the Keys and Confession. Although he was a doctor of theology, Luther wrote, "I must still read and study the catechism daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the catechism-- and I also do so gladly." Come and join us! Led by Pastor Paul Janke in the Fellowship Hall.

Thursday Evening Bible Study – "Galatians". Six sessions from 6:30-7:30 pm, beginning **January 4th**. Led by Pastor Paul Janke. This class will be held in the Fellowship Hall, but you may also participate by Zoom from home. Please signup in the Welcome Center and if you are participating by ZOOM, add your email contact.

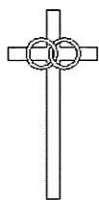
Women's Friday Bible Study – Special invitation to school moms and women to attend a Bible study on Esther. See how God masterfully orchestrates and weaves together every detail of our lives in jaw-dropping ways. Fridays from 8:00-9:00 am when school is in session. Led by Melissa Linton.

Ministry Events

Jesus Cares: Our special Christmas Worship at the Cross service was blessed by God. We had more than a dozen participants with special needs attending and their parents and caregivers. Everyone was excited to have this opportunity to worship every month. Our next services held at Good Shepherd, are **January 9**, February 6, March 5, April 2, and May 7 at 6:00 pm. Invite a friend with special needs and attend these blessed services with them.

Ladies League meets Tuesday, **January 9** at 9:30 am & 7:00 pm. All ladies are invited to attend!

Good Shepherd Marriage Enrichment Night will be held Valentines Day Weekend, Friday, **February 9** from 6:00-9:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for couples to strengthen their marriage and enjoy wonderful Christian fellowship. Look for further details to come



Building Connections to Share Jesus!

At our recent Facility Planning Open Forums we shared the facility needs and ministry opportunities set before our Good Shepherd family, along with some options for facility expansion. Copies of the presentation are available in the Welcome Center. Our leaders are reviewing the input received as we plan our next steps.

Special Events

KML Percussion Concert is Saturday, **January 13** at 6:30 pm at the KML Performing Arts Center. All are invited.

A New Member Welcome is scheduled for the 8:00 am worship service Sunday, **January 14** with a time of fellowship to follow. Come meet, greet and welcome our new members!

SAVE THE DATE! Spiritual Gifts Discovery Workshops will be held Saturday, **January 27 and February 24** from 9:00-11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage each member of Good Shepherd to attend one of these workshops. Grow in your appreciation of how richly God has blessed you and designed you for a special calling in life. Discover your spiritual gifts and how you can put them to good use for a life of service in every aspect of your life. This winter we are offering a hybrid version of our popular Shaped to Serve Workshops. We are able to shorten the in person workshop to 2 hours by asking participants to complete their assessments at home. Free childcare is provided for parents who attend as we have a Gym Play day held at the same time. Register at this QR code or signup in the Welcome Center.



A Gym Play Day is set for Saturday, **January 27** from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at Good Shepherd. Come bring the kids for some indoor fun and fellowship, including our own bounce house. Invite your friends! We will also hold Gym play days **February 24 and March 23**.



Shepherd Youth Sledding and Bonfire is set for Sunday, **January 28th** from 1:00-4:00 pm.



Men of his Word Conference – Saturday, **February 17, 2024** at the Oshkosh Convention Center. Theme – **Built to Serve**. Keynote speaker – Pastor Michael Berg. All men and teens are invited! Music by Koine. To learn more about topics or to register online, go to www.menofhisword.org. Contact Pastor Hein for carpool planning.

Christmas Tree Take Down - Volunteers are needed to take down our church Christmas tree, Wednesday, **January 3** at 9:00 am. Contact Ron Kempf for more information. Thanks to all our volunteers who have helped beautify our church for Christmas!



*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.*

Our Congregational Mission

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!

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

School News



Kick Start for 3K, 4K, and Kindergarten for the 24/25 school year is Saturday, **February 10** from 9:00-11:00 am in the gym. Drop in and stay and play, bounce house, donuts and coffee, snacks and gym time. Learn more about our preschool and kindergarten! Register at goodshepherdwels.org/pk Tell your unchurched friends! Ask about our Parental Choice program.

Ministry Updates and Thank you's.

Thanks to the many wonderful volunteers who helped make Christmas for Kids a wonderful success. 130 children from our church and community were enrolled. Now we are following up with unchurched families to invite them to events at Good Shepherd. **Easter for Kids** is Saturday, **March 16**.

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!

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.

2024 Offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Please don't use new envelopes until 2024.

Please remember to follow through on your first-fruit giving plan for regular and special services as a grateful act of worship, and to meet the ongoing needs of our ministry plan.

Special Gifts

In memory of Louise Frailing from family and friends

- \$1,000 for Choir Music
- \$9,000 for Building Connections
- \$30 for Memorial Fund



Joyful Giving in 2024

Dear Member of our Good Shepherd Family,

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.” (Proverbs 3:9) Giving offerings is not a matter of “keeping the lights on” at church or filling a budget. Offerings are part of your worship. They are a tangible way we express our thanks to God for all that he has done for us. It also demonstrates our trust in him to provide for our future needs. As we approach the New Year, we ask you to assess your income and give a percentage that reflects the physical and spiritual blessings God has given you. Consider also that your offering helps us take hold of the great ministry opportunities God is placing before us here at Good Shepherd and the Lord’s work elsewhere.

We encourage each member to develop a giving plan for 2024 (See below for a simple option.). God’s Word says, *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.”* (1 Corinthians 16:2) Having a plan doesn’t have to be complicated. It helps you prioritize this aspect of your worship by setting aside money for the Lord and usually leads to better management of your finances as a whole. On the back of this sheet you’ll find specific instructions for giving here at Good Shepherd. Thank you for your gifts of love!

Pastor Peter Schlicht

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

A Personal Giving Plan for 2024

Annual income or combined income is \$ _____

The percentage I want to give to the Lord as an act of worship is _____ %

Multiply income by percentage to find your yearly giving total.

(eg. If you make \$50,000 and you wish to give 10 percent: $50,000/0.10 = \$5,000$ in annual giving.

My yearly giving plan total is \$ _____

Divide this total by 52 weeks or 12 months to determine your weekly or monthly offering.

My weekly or monthly contribution during 2024 is \$ _____

Special gifts I choose to offer over and above this weekly plan.

WELS Missions \$ _____ Kettle Moraine Lutheran \$ _____

Debt Retirement \$ _____ Building Connections \$ _____

Other Ministries, Little Lambs, etc. \$ _____

Giving Instructions

Online Giving

A free online giving service is available. Click on the “Offering” button on our website www.goodshepherdwels.org to take you to Vanco Services’ secure website. There you can create a personal profile and a plan to give an offering from your checking or savings account. You can offer a one-time or regularly scheduled gift. The site gives you all the designation options available in our envelope packets. You may still participate in the gathering of the offering by writing “Simply Giving” on your envelope.

Offering Envelopes We also invite you to use offering envelopes. These will be available starting December 9th and 10th in the church narthex. Using envelopes is recommended over simply putting cash in the plate because it allows for tracking of giving for tax benefit purposes and for your own personal stewardship review. It also includes options for specific designations. Finally, placing a check or cash in an envelope each week is, in and of itself, a special way to prepare your heart for worship.

Special Gifts offered in memory of a loved one, or in honor of an anniversary, marriage, or other occasion will be listed in the monthly newsletter. Please include that request with the specific details when you offer your gift. For example: \$50 given for “Kid’s Programs” in memory of John Smith by Pete and Jane Smith.

Charitable Contributions – Cash contributions cannot be claimed for a tax deduction unless they are supported by a receipt or statement from a qualifying organization. Contributions can be made by check and claimed without a receipt unless any single contribution is \$250 or more. For gifts to your home church, it is always best to use your offering envelopes. For gifts to other organizations, contribute by check, and if it is \$250 or more, require a receipt or statement.

WELS Planned Giving Assistance – Contact Mr. Scott Wagner, from the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving, at 605-231-7402 to set up charitable giving plans through your estate, to maximize tax advantages for charitable giving, and enable you to continue supporting the Lord’s work even when you are in heaven. He can meet with you at no charge. Another option is Mr. Paul Snamiska, who serves as the KML Estate Plan/Deferred Gift Counselor, at 262- 677-4051.

IRA Direct Giving – If you are over 70 ½ you can direct IRA distributions to our church and not be taxed for the proceeds. For more details on this tax wise way of giving, contact Mr. Jim Sievert.