



December Newsletter in the Year of Our Lord 2022

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

"Come, Lord!" (1 Corinthians 16:22)

The Bible's teaching of Christ's Second Coming makes some people uneasy. They hear what Jesus said about "signs in the sun, moon and stars," that "nations will be in anguish and perplexity," and "the heavenly bodies will be shaken" (Luke 21:25-27) and they feel apprehensive, even fearful.

Through faith in Jesus as our Savior, though, we have no reason to be frightened by the prospect of his return. On the eve of his crucifixion, Jesus reassured his troubled disciples with a promise: "I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am." (John 14:2-3 EHV) By his death for our sins and his resurrection, Jesus has prepared a place for us in the Father's house. When he comes again, it will be to take us to be with him forever. The grace of Jesus and his promises enable us to live in eager anticipation for his return, rather than in dread of it.

It's true, as the Bible says, "This world in its present form is passing away." (1 Cor. 7:31) But for believers, the future is not destruction or God's unending wrath. The future for believers is bright with God's promises. The apostle Peter wrote, "But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells."

Reassured by our Lord's promises, we can sit down to a meal and pray, "Come, Lord Jesus..." We can confidently speak the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Your kingdom come." And we can join the early Christians and exclaim, "Maranatha!" (It means, "Come, Lord!" in Aramaic.) We can be eager, not apprehensive, confident, not fearful, because what's coming when Jesus returns is better than we can possibly imagine.

So, enjoy the season of Advent with its focus on Jesus' coming in the Word, in flesh and in glory. We have every reason to be joyful and say, "Come, Lord!"



Pastor Paul Janke

The Little Lambs Christmas Program will in church Saturday, Dec. 17 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.



Worship Christ with us!

Saturdays at 5:00 pm

Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30

Sunday School and Bible Study at 9:15 am

Thanksgiving Worship - Wednesday, November 23 at 6:30 pm and Thursday, November 24 at 9:00 am. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on God's goodness to us and praise him for his awesome blessings.

Jesus Cares Worship Service - Tuesday, November 29 at 6 pm. If you know someone who could benefit from this simplified worship service for people with special learning needs, please contact Pastor Mueller. Promotional flyers are available in the Welcome Center.

Midweek Advent Worship - Prepare your hearts to celebrate Christmas! Theme – "Advent Lessons on Patience, Perseverance and Priorities" Wednesdays - 10:00 am and 6:30 pm; November 30, December 7, and 14

Christmas Services

Children's Christmas Service "The Carols of Christmas." Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 & 5:00 pm. A Saturday rehearsal is December 10 at 8:30 & 9:45 am.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services - Saturday, December 24 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 - Sunday, December 25th at 9:00 am (note time)



Opportunities to Grow through the Word

Wednesday Morning Bible Class is held Wednesdays at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our topic is the Book of Job with the title "Job, Faith Tried and Triumphant." This book deals with the age old question "Why do believers suffer?" "Is sin the cause for suffering?" "What kind of power does Satan have?" We also will find the cross of our Savior in this Old Testament book. Come and join us! Led by Pastor Richard Lauersdorf.

Women's Friday Bible Study – Topic: "Gay & God - Talking Transparently to Your Children" How do you talk to your children about the gay lifestyle? We are inviting women to grab a pen and highlighter for a quick, three week study based on a short book by Pastor Mike Novotny - our gift to you! Join us at the Friday Morning Bible Study as Melissa Linton and Marilyn Sievert provide a space to read, digest, and discuss this important topic. December 2, 9, & 16 in Good Shepherd's Fellowship Hall. CHILD CARE is available - please register! Sign up on the website for class/child care or use the sign up sheet in the back of the narthex.

Our new Bible Information Class, "Our New Life with Jesus" will be held Monday nights at 7:00, beginning January 9. (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.

Small Groups - Moms Night Out will be on Tuesday, Nov. 22. The moms will be meeting at Norbert's at 6:30 pm to enjoy fellowship and relax without kids. This partners perfectly with our **Dads with Kids** group. Therefore, Dads with Kids will meet that same day Nov. 22 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall of church. Mac n cheese and hotdogs will be served for supper. If you would like to know more, or attend either small group, please sign up on the church website under the church tab, "small groups."

Advent by Candlelight - Registration is open for this event sponsored by the Good Shepherd Ladies League and assisted by the Women's Ministry Team. We invite women of our congregation from confirmation age through seniors to participate in an evening of Advent readings, prayers, and songs. Light refreshments (desserts and beverages, not a full meal) will be served. We will gather an offering to benefit our Little Lambs mortgage principle reduction fund and also the WELS Special Ministries.) Time: Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm at Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall. Please sign up by December 1st on the sheet in the Welcome Center (or online).

New Year's Eve Communion Worship

Saturday, December 31st at 5:00 pm (note time)

New Year's Day Worship - Sunday, January 1 at 9:00 am (note time) This will be a different service than Dec. 31.

Holiday weekend worship schedule - As you come for special holiday worship services, make sure not to miss out on our regular weekend worship opportunity. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Study December 25 or January 1. Since Christmas and New Year's fall on Sundays, we have less regular Sunday worship services this year. 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 needs of our ministry plan.

Sunday Bible Studies at 9:15 am

"In the Beginning" a study of the book of Genesis focusing on key truths concerning the beginning of the world, the human race, marriage, the Fall into sin, and the promise of the Savior. Led by Pastor Robert Hein in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Bible Class: "How to..." – Sunday, December 4 from 9:15-10:15 am, led by Pastor Mueller in the Commons Area downstairs.

Sunday School is a great way to teach your children the wonderful stories of the Bible. Currently we are learning about Jacob and how God was with him wherever he went. What a comfort for our children to know that God is with them all the time! Start bringing your PreK - 7th grade children to Sunday School so they can learn all these stories from the Bible. Pastor Mueller will visit our Sunday School classes November 27 to show how they can flee from temptation.

Thanksgiving Food Drive – You are invited to bring non-perishable goods to the bins in the Fellowship Hall as part of our Thanksgiving Food Drive. These items will be included in our cornucopia display in church as a way to express our thanksgiving to God, and then we will bring the items to our local food pantry.



Special Events and Fellowship Opportunities

OWLS Update - The next meeting of our Dodge/Washington OWLS will be Monday, November 28, 10:00 am. at Good Shepherd. Our speaker is Tammy Anderson from Washington County Aging and Disability Department. Find out what county services are available to us seniors and to ask your questions. After a brief business meeting, we will enjoy a great potluck, so please bring a dish to share. We will also discuss our December Christmas Party. Come and find out what services are available and enjoy some Christian fellowship. All are invited to join us!

Advent Dinners will be held this year November 30, December 7 & 14 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 freewill offering to cover expenses. Bring a dessert to share. Contact Cheryl Henckel to volunteer.



Christmas for Kids will be Saturday, December 3 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 story and fun. Invite your unchurched friends! If you would like to help, fill out a volunteer form at church or contact Maria Reis 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. If you would like to support this outreach, please use a Kid's Program envelope in the narthex.

A Congregational Bible Breakfast will be held Saturday, January 7 from 8:00-9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Eric Roecker of WELS Evangelism will present on the topic – "Shifting Our Outreach Strategy." He will emphasize the importance of personal witness in our current culture. 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.



Ministry Update



Building "People" Connections Update We are grateful that 256

families/individuals have promised \$984,650 towards our Building People Connections campaign to reduce or eliminate our \$1.2 million expansion mortgage. \$919,429 has already been received. Please keep up with your pledged amounts. Our mortgage balance is now \$144,916.

Personal Member Ministry Update - "Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it!" (1 Corinthians 12:27) A few years ago our leaders adopted an Action Plan of ministry priorities. Two of them focus on our mission to serve God and others in love. Our twofold goal is to:

- Initiate a congregation-wide member ministry effort helping God's people discover their spiritual gifts and connecting them to service.
- Develop a system to train and prepare church leaders and volunteers for service.

We have two Personal Member Ministry coordinators, Catherine Moldenhauer and Marilyn Sievert, leading this effort, and we have formed a Member Ministry Core Team, advised by Pastor Hein, to serve with our members to carry out the 8 key components of Member Ministry. These are Biblical Foundations, Cultural and Awareness, Connecting, Discovery, Matching and Placement, Communication, Equipping, and Recognition and Reflection. Right now, we are inviting members to serve on implementation teams for each of these areas and we are preparing a sermon series to share our vision with our Good Shepherd family.

More ways to get involved!

Christmas Tree /Nativity Scene Set Up - Volunteers are needed to help decorate our church Christmas tree, Wednesday, December 7 at 11:00 am and take it down Wednesday, January 4 at 10:00 am. Contact Ron Kempf for more information. Nativity Scene - Volunteers are needed to setup and take down the outdoor wooden nativity scene. If you can help, please contact Deb Grosz at 262-339-9379.

A Giving Tree will be set up in the Welcome Center in late November. Instead of ornaments, it will have tags with gifts items listed. These gifts will help families from our church and school receive some special Christmas gifts. Please DON'T wrap the gifts. Place them under the tree unwrapped by December 18th. Good Shepherd Students will be wrapping the gifts as a part of their character education events. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Kapler kkapler@gslswb.org.

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!



*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

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 12th. A special door offering will also be received after each service December 10-11th for this purpose.

Little Lambs is hiring! – Little Lambs is seeking to hire an assistant teacher for the baby room. We are looking for a qualified nurturing teacher to add to our staff for our growing childcare and the growing mission to teach all of God's Little Lambs his good news. No weekends, no evenings, paid holidays, discounted childcare, and other benefits. We are hoping to hire a WELS teacher so that all the rooms have the Good Shepherd background and mission. If you can think of anyone who might have this talent and interest, please let us know! For any questions please contact Anita Cook at Little Lambs. 262-338-1764.

The KML Winter Band Concert (high school and elementary school) will be Sunday, December 4 at 2:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

KML Christmas Choir Concert will be Saturday, December 17 at 6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Christmas Concerts are Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 and 7:00 pm.

A Northwestern Publishing House book and gift fair will be held the weekends of November 19/20 and November 26/27.

SPECIAL GIFTS



In honor of Gene and Gloria Derge's 50th wedding anniversary;
\$50 for Memorial Fund;
\$50 for Debt Retirement Fund.

In memory of Lloyd Gatzke from family and friends;
\$250 for Building Connections;
\$2,435 for Little Lambs Bathroom Project;
\$1,700 for the Memorial Fund

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 pm Griefshare 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	2 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	3 9:00 am Christmas for Kids 5:00 pm Worship
4 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	5 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	6 7:00 pm Advent by Candlelight	7 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 10:00 am Advent Worship 5:15 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Worship	8 6:30 pm Public School Catechism 6:30 pm Griefshare 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	9 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	10 8:30 am Children's Christmas Rehearsal 9:45 am Children's Christmas Rehearsal 5:00 pm Communion Worship
11 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am Communion Worship	12 6:00 pm Pioneer Family Night	13	14 8:00 am Newsletter Mailing 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 10:00 am Advent Worship 5:15 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm Advent Worship	15 6:30 pm Public School Catechism 6:30 pm Griefshare 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	16 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	17 9:00 am Little Lambs Christmas Program 5:00 pm Worship
18 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm Children's Christmas Service 5:00 pm Children's Christmas Service	19	20 6:30 pm Coordinating Council	21 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:15 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30 pm Public School Catechism	23 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	24 5:00 pm Christmas Candlelight 9:00 pm Christmas Candlelight
25 9:00 am Christmas Day Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31 5:00 pm New Year's Eve Communion Worship