



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter



January 2020

Our Vision

Connected to Christ!

Connected to One Another!

Connected to our
Community!

Good Shepherd is all
about building connec-
tions:

- Building stronger connections with Christ through his Word.
- Building stronger connections with one another through fellowship, Christian education, and service, and
- Building connections with our unchurched friends and relatives through the power of the Gospel.

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Worship Christ with us!

Saturdays at 5:00 pm;
Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30

As you come for special
holiday worship services,
make sure not to miss
out on our regular wor-
ship opportunities.

There will be no Sunday
School or Bible Study
December 29th.

Celebrate Something Solid!

Since it gets dark so early these days, it is nice to see the Christmas lights along our way. Some of the biggest and brightest displays we see these days are hollow, filled with air. In the light of day, with the fan turned off, they almost disappear. There is little about them that is solid. Even inflated, they have little to give to someone grieving a loss.

What we celebrate is not tinsel and glitter, reindeer and polar bears, but the birth of a Savior whose coming brings light to even the darkest corners of life. Darkness brings cold and fear and

confusion. And reminds us out great the Good News really is: Christ brings light and life and love.

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:2, 6 (NIV)

This gift has been given "to us." We can face the

pain of things we have lost with the knowledge of what we have in our Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God, the Prince of Peace.

In Christ,

Pastor John Paustian



If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, please join our GriefShare support group. A new set of sessions will begin Sunday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Worship

Children's Christmas Eve Services

"Saints and angel hosts rejoice!"

December 24 at 3:00 & 5:30 pm

(If able, please park across the street at Little Lambs to leave more spaces for the elderly and our guests.)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24 at 9:00 pm

Enjoy Christmas with special singing, musical groups, and candlelight. We end this service by singing "Silent Night" by just the light of candles and our Christmas tree.

Christmas Day Festival Service December 25 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. Seek his guidance in the new!

Opportunities to Grow through the Word

New Sunday Bible Studies at 9:15 am, beginning January 5th. Sign up in the narthex for planning purposes.

“Lord, Help Me Make God-pleasing Decisions” Some decisions God’s Word speaks to directly. In other cases, the Bible gives us principles to follow. Learn how to make God-pleasing decisions. Led by Pastor Robert Hein in the fellowship hall.

“Prepared to Answer” A new set of lessons on Bible story evangelism based on chapters from the popular “Prepared to Answer” books by Dr. Mark Paustian. Led by Pastor John Paustian downstairs in the Commons area.

New Bible Information Class— “Our New Life in Christ” Monday nights at 7:00 pm, beginning January 6th. 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.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class - We meet Wednesday mornings in church from 9:00-10:00 am. Our topic is the wisdom offered in the book of Proverbs. Come! Our Bible Class family will make you feel

at home. Led by Pastor Richard E. Lauersdorf. Class resumes January 8th.

A Small Group Bible Study is being planned for the new year held at the home of Paul and Carly Braun beginning Wednesday January 8th at 6:30 pm. The topic is “The Impact of Christ’s Life upon Yours.” Contact Pastor Hein or the Brauns if you would like to learn more about small groups.

Time Out For Mom’s Friday Bible Study

A study of Ephesians. All moms invited. Led by Marilyn Sievert in the Fireside Room. Free childcare provided. Fridays at 8:00 a.m., Next class is January 3rd.

Sacred Concerts & Special Events

The Branches Band, a WELS Contemporary group from Milwaukee, will play at all our services January 4-5. CD’s of their music will be available and a freewill offering will be gathered to support their music ministry. Invite your friends!

Men’s Bible Breakfast – Men, you are invited to our next Men’s Bible Breakfast. Enjoy a hearty meaty breakfast, served by our Board of Evangelism, and a short Bible study Saturday, January 11th from 8:00-9:30 am. Held in our Fellowship Hall. Led by Pastor Hein. Topic – God empowers ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. This is a great way to grow in your faith and get to know your brothers in Christ at Good Shepherd better. For planning purposes, please sign up in the narthex.

Men of his Word Conference will be held at Oshkosh Convention Center Saturday February 8th. Enjoy great workshops on a variety of topics related to living as a Christian man. Koine will lead the music and worship. Register at www.menofhisword.org. For carpooling information, contact Pastor Hein.

GriefShare provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. Each session includes a video on an aspect of the grieving process and a discussion of the video. Each participant will have a workbook with chapters that follow up on that lesson. Register online at www.goodshepherdwels.org. Sundays at 6:00 pm. A new group will be starting January 12.

KML Percussion Concert - KML will be hosting an exciting percussion concert Saturday, January 11th at 6:30 pm at the Performing Arts Center. Wisconsin Lutheran High School will also participate. All are invited.

Christmas Tree Take Down - Volunteers are needed to take down our church Christmas tree, Wednesday, January 8th at 10:00 am. Contact Ron Kempf for more information.

Jesus Cares offers a simplified Bible study at Good Shepherd the third Saturday of each month (Jan 18th) from 9:00-10:30 am. If you know someone who would like to attend or would like to help as a volunteer, please contact Lora Gatzke at 414-852-6156.

Sacred Concerts & Special Events (continued)

BOOK DRIVE

Please consider giving a book or two for our WELS mission school in Grenada, West Indies. They are in need of new or gently used picture books and easy chapter books for Grades 1 and 2. Look for the donation box! Thanks! Contact Mrs. Paustian

Good Shepherd Marriage Enrichment Night

Set aside Friday, February 14th from 6:00-9:00 pm for a special marriage enrichment night at Good Shepherd held in our Fellowship Hall. All couples are welcome whether you are newlyweds or married 50 years already. Invite your nonmember friends as well. Strengthen your marriage, enjoy delicious food and great fellowship and some mixer games with other Christian couples. Guest presenter KML Pastor Ben Reichel will promote "Friendship in Marriage."

Since this is Valentines Day, we will enjoy a candlelight catered dinner together as well. Registration forms will be available soon at church.

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

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!

Coming in January!

Preschool/Kindergarten Open Houses

Would you like to find out more about our Preschool and Kindergarten programs for next school year (2020-2021)? Come to our Open Houses to find out more!

Call the school office at 334-7881 for more information. Tell your unchurched friends and neighbors! Also ask about our Parental Choice program.

Kindergarten Roundup & Registration - Saturday, January 18th from 9:00-10:30 am.

Preschool K-3 (3 year old) Open House - Tuesday, January 14th from 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

Preschool – K-4 (4 year old) Open house - Thursday, January 16th from 11:00 am-12:30 pm.

Christ Teens Indoor Game Day is Sunday, January 19th from Noon-3 pm. Sign up in the narthex for planning purposes.

A **Sheepshead Tournament** will be held at Good Shepherd in the Fellowship Hall Saturday, January 11 from 1:30-4:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to play. Come enjoy the fun. Sign up in the narthex and bring a snack to share.

Ministry Update

How blessed we are to enjoy our new expanded facilities! "Building Connections" envelopes are available in the church narthex. Special gifts in honor of a special blessing or in memory of a loved one are welcome and will reduce our loan amount. Keep this project in your prayers!

All newly elected and returning leaders will be installed at all services January 4-5th.

Our Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00 pm. A ministry and finan-

cial update will be provided. We encourage all voting members to attend this important meeting!

Thanks to the many wonderful volunteers who helped make Christmas for Kids a fun program to build connections. 82 children attended of which several were not members of Good Shepherd or Shepherd of the Hills.

Furnishings Fund - Special gifts are welcome to our Furnishings Fund to purchase additional furniture for our narthex. These chairs will be similar to the new ones we recently

placed in the Welcome Center. About \$2,000 is still needed to complete this project. Special gifts may also be given in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special event. Contact Pastor Hein to see samples and learn more.

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

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

777 Indiana Avenue
West Bend, WI 53095
Phone: 262-334-7881

www.goodshepherdwels.org

Please like us on Facebook:

Good Shepherd Lutheran—West Bend, WI

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.*



Service & Fellowship Opportunities

thankfulness for the blessings the Christ-child brings to your life. Our ministry needs increase in the new year as we make debt payments on our expansion project. 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 "giving" 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.

Building "People" Connections - Our leaders are planning a stewardship emphasis called Building "People" Connections. We are not looking to build more brick and mortar, but rather enhance our ministry, and help one another grow in our connections with Jesus and one another. We are working with WELS Stewardship Consultant Jeff Davis to develop a vision and action plan to share with all the members of the congregation. One goal is to help each member of Good Shepherd identify their gifts and use them in their daily vocation and life of Christian service. We are studying ways to involve more men and women in the ministry of our congregation and also the need for a third full time pastor to focus on building stronger connections with youth and young families. We will celebrate the three year anniversary of our "Building Connections" emphasis March 29th. We will invite our members to consider offering a follow up gift / three year pledge to pay down our "Building Connections" mortgage of \$1,233,000. This is crucial for the continued health of our congregation.

Special Gifts

In memory of Helen Yenter from Family & Friends:

\$470 for The Choir Fund

\$100 for Time Out for Moms

\$100 for Building Connections

\$600 for the new outdoor nativity scene

In memory of Mara Scherbarth

\$10,000 for Martin Luther College's Equipping Christian Witnesses.

\$5,000 for Worker Training in Vietnam