

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	2 9:00 am Christmas for Kids 5:00 pm Worship
3 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 2:30 pm KML Winter Band Concert	4 6:30 pm Bible Information Class	5 6:00 pm Jesus Cares 7:00 pm Advent By Candlelight	6 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 am Advent Worship 5:15 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:30 pm Adult Bells	7 6:30 pm Public School Catechism 7:30 pm Public School Catechism 7:30 pm Adult Choir	8 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	9 8:30 & 9:45 am Children's Christmas Rehearsals 5:00 pm Communion Worship 6:00 pm Open Forum
10 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Open Forum 10:30 am Communion Worship 11:30 am Open Forum	11 6:00 pm Pioneer Family Night	12	13 8:00 am Newsletter Mailing 9:00 am Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 am Advent Worship 11:00 am Decorate Tree 5:15 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:30 pm Adult Bells	14 6:30 pm Public School Catechism 7:30 pm Public School Catechism 7:30 pm Adult Choir	15 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	16 9:30 am Little Lambs Christmas Program 5:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm KML Christmas Concert
17 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 1:30 & 4:00 pm Children's Christmas Services	18	19 6:30 pm Coordinating Council	20 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 7:30 pm Adult Bells	21 6:30 pm Public School Catechism 7:30 pm Public School Catechism 7:30 pm Adult Choir	22	23 5:00 pm Communion Worship
24 8 & 10:30 am Com Worship 5:00 & 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight	25 9:00 am Christmas Day Worship	26	27	28	29	30 5:00 pm Worship
31 8 & 10:30 am Worship 5:00 pm New Year's Eve Communion Worship						

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



Act like a child.

Has anyone ever said that to you before? I've heard, "Stop acting like a child," but never, act like a child.

Jesus said in Mark 10:14-15, "the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." What does that mean? Jesus didn't mean that we should stomp through mud puddles, rub chocolate ice cream on our face, and wear shorts in 30 degree weather. No. Jesus isn't telling us to be childish, but childlike. He is telling us that spiritually we must act like a child. We must "receive the kingdom of God like a little child" when it comes to trusting in him and his Word.

This Christmas season our children, the children in our church and school, are going to overflow with joy. Not just



because they will receive presents, but because they know that God has given them the best gift of all, Jesus. Our children are going to sing the beautiful songs of Christmas, recite the blessed words of Luke 2, "While they were there the time came for the baby to be

born..." and gaze upon the lights and decorations believing that their Savior came to this world for them.

This childlike faith knows what Christmas is all about. This childlike faith trusts in God's Word, God's love, and God's mercy. This is what it means to act like a child. Thankfully, being a Christian is not about having everything figured out or knowing all the answers. It's about faith in Jesus. It's about trusting in the one who was born in Bethlehem. It's about putting yourself in the grownup pierced hands of Jesus who gave his life for you. When it comes to your faith, act like a child and trust in your Savior Jesus.

Pastor Matt Mueller



Worship our Lord with joy!

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

Join us for **Thanksgiving Worship**
 Wednesday, **November 22nd** at 6:30 pm or on Thursday, **November 23rd** at 9:00 am. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on God's goodness to us and praise him for his awesome blessings.



In Concert – "Unworthy", a local WELS contemporary musical group, will play at our worship services Sunday, **December 3rd** at 8:00 and 10:30 am. A freewill offering will be gathered to support their music ministry. The Saturday evening service will follow our normal format.

Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays - 10:00 am and 6:30 pm
December 6, 13, and 20

Prepare your hearts to celebrate Christmas! Our midweek services will run about 40-45 minutes long and focus on preparing our hearts for Christmas.

Theme – **"Opening Christmas Presents Early"**



The Gift of Christian Identity
 The Gift of Christian Community
 The Gift of Christian Joy

Advent Dinners will be held this year **December 6, 13, and 20** 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 yummy dessert to share. Contact Cheryl Henckel to volunteer.





Opportunities to Grow through the Word

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES at 9:15 am through December 17th

"Living in the Lion's Den" A Bible Study on the Book of Daniel led by Pastor Schlicht.

Sunday School Lessons for Adults: Enjoy the stories of the Bible that kids love and cherish while discovering spiritual truths and insights. Sunday, **December 3** from 9:15-10:15 am in the 6th grade classroom.

Youth Bible Class: Directed to 8-12th graders. Sunday, **December 17** from 9:15-10:15 am in the 6th grade classroom.

Childcare Available - We have babysitters for Sunday Morning Bible Study! Drop off your 0-2 year old in the Parent's Rooms by the sanctuary and enjoy one of our Sunday morning Bible studies at 9:15 am. Register your child by emailing Holly Mueller-muellerhn24@gmail.com.

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



Wednesday Morning Bible Class is held Wednesdays at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall through **December 20th**. We are studying the Old Testament book of Zechariah. Led by Pastor Paul Janke.

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.

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.



Sundays in Advent The King Shall Come

The Church Year begins with the season of Advent, which means "coming." Jesus, the King, shall come. We see why the King came on that first Christmas and why he shall come again on judgment day. In this season, we also cherish the way our King comes to us today in Word and sacrament, establishing his reign in our hearts. This year the First Sunday in Advent begins on **December 3**.

Christmas Services

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

This service focuses on the details of the story of salvation and reminds us that it is more than just a story – it is historic fact, the details of which are the basis of our sure and certain hope through faith in Christ. A Saturday rehearsal is **December 9th** at 8:30 & 9:45 am.

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

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),

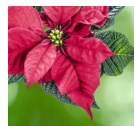
Saturday, **December 30** at 5:00 pm and

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 24th or 31st**

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.

Service Opportunities

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.



Christmas Flower Signup – If you would like to donate flowers to beautify our church for Christmas, please sign up in the Welcome Center by **December 3rd**. You may designate your flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special blessing.

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 17th. 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.



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 11th**. A special door offering will also be received after each service **December 9/10** for this purpose.

Christmas Tree / Nativity Scene Set Up - Volunteers are needed to setup our church Christmas tree, Wednesday, **November 29** at 11:00 am, (lights only) and to add ornaments Wednesday, **December 13** at 11:00 am. We will take it down Wednesday, **January 3** at 9:00 am. Contact Ron Kempf for more information. Nativity Scene - Volunteers are needed to setup and take down the outdoor wooden nativity scene. If you are interested in helping, please contact Deb Grosz at 262-339-9379.



Sacred Concerts and Special Events

The Northwestern Publishing House Book and Gift Display will be held the weekends of **November 18/19** and **November 25/26**. You will be able to order NPH books at a 10% discount and no extra shipping costs. Advent calendars, Christmas cards, ornaments and other faith based items will also be available for purchase.

The Lutheran Chorale will hold their "Prelude to Christmas" Concert Sunday, **November 26** at 2:00 pm at St. John Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa. All are invited.

WLS Update - The November meeting of our Dodge/Washington OWLS will be Monday, **November 27**, 10:00 am at Peace, Hartford. Our Speaker will be Amy Hackman of Aurora Health to inform us "When to see a doctor". After a brief business meeting, we will enjoy another great potluck lunch, so please bring a dish to share. Everyone is invited. Come and experience the information, education and service of the Owls.

A Living Nativity will be held at St. Paul's, Howards Grove, Friday, **Dec. 1**. Enjoy a live action outdoor performance every 30 minutes with live animals. Tour the streets of Bethlehem in the gym, and enjoy delicious cookies. If you would like to carpool, we are leaving from Little Lambs parking lot at 6:00 pm and will return by 9:00 pm. This living nativity is held at a WELS church about 45 minutes away. For more information, see the flyer in the Welcome Center.

Christmas for Kids will be Saturday, **December 2** 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, a video, a Bible story and fun. Invite your unchurched friends! Register children online at www.goodshepherdwels.org or pick up a registration form at church. If you would like to help, fill out a volunteer form at church or contact Maria Reis. 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.



The KML Winter Band Concert (high school and elementary school) will be Sunday, **December 3** at 2:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

Jesus Cares: You are invited to our monthly Jesus Cares worship services for people with special needs. Our next service is Tuesday, **December 5** at 6:00 pm. Invite a friend with special needs and attend these blessed services with them.



*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.*



Ministry Update

Join us for our Facility Expansion Open Forums.

Saturday, **December 9** at 6:00 pm, Sunday, **December 10** at 9:15 am and 11:00 am. Also held at Wednesday Bible Study Wednesday, **December 6** at 9:00 am. Our purpose is to reflect upon the blessings God has lavished upon our congregation and share with all of our members the need, opportunities and plans for facility expansion, seeking congregational prayers, input and support. God has blessed our school with increased enrollment and we have plans to enhance the ministry of our church and school. We urge all members to attend!

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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www.goodshepherdwels.org

Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran—West Bend, WI



Advent by Candlelight will be held in the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall Tuesday, **December 5** at 7:00 pm. (Doors open at 6:30 pm) The theme – Take Me to the Manger, an Evening of Reflection and Song.

All ladies, Confirmation age and up, are invited to attend and to invite a guest to join us as well. Sign up, using this QR code or at the Welcome Center for planning purposes.



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Christmas Concerts are Sunday, **December 10** at 3:00 and 7:00 pm

The Little Lambs Christmas Program will be in church Saturday, **December 16** at 9:30 am followed by a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy our little children sharing their joy of Christmas in word and song.



Treats needed – Sign up in the Welcome Center if you can bring some treats and desserts for the time of fellowship following the Little Lambs Christmas program

December 16th. Bring to the Fellowship Hall by 9:00 am.

KML Christmas Choir Concert will be Saturday, **December 16** at 6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

The Good Shepherd Men's Choir has been selected to sing the National Anthem at a Milwaukee Admirals game. The game is Wednesday, **December 27** at 7:00 pm. There is a link below for tickets, they are \$22 + fees (around \$25 total). Contact Adam Retzlaff for more information. <https://fevo.me/3rQZCLp>

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.



Special Gifts

In memory of Louise Frailing \$50 for Christmas for Kids

In memory of Reinhold Fischer \$50 for Christmas for Kids, \$420 for Church Memorial Fund, and \$25 for Building Connections

In memory of Franklin Kringle \$50 for General Fund