



Epiphany

Good Shepherd Evangelical
Lutheran Church
525 63rd St Downers Grove, IL 60516
(630) 852-1519 www.gsdg.org
Exciting Happenings and Doings of
God's People

January 9 and 10, 2021

Today's focus: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! This morning we gather for the Festival of Epiphany which celebrates Jesus as Savior of the whole world. The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord is the second oldest festival celebrated by the Church, dating to the second century. The Eastern Church commemorates the birth of Christ on this day, but the Western Church remembers it as the "Gentile Christmas" and celebrates Jesus who appeared as the Word for the world.



Below please find the link to sign up for worship this weekend...

Worship Signup Link

Weekend Worship Signup

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E45AFA92CABFA7-epiphany>

The Season of Epiphany

The twelve days of Christmas culminate at the celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord on January 6th (which we are celebrating in worship on January 9th and 10th). The season of Epiphany highlights the appearance ("epiphany") of the Son of God as the Savior of the whole world—both Jew and Gentile. God revealed the mystery of his person and his mission through the words and works of the Father, through the anointing and empowering of the Spirit, and through the preaching and miracles of Christ.

This season of the Savior's appearance is bracketed by two white Sundays: The Baptism of our Lord and Transfiguration. Since he had come hidden in flesh, recognizing Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God required revelation. From John's Baptism to the Father's booming voice, God revealed the truth about Jesus to the world: this son of Mary is the Son of God, come as the Christ. The Father's testimony about Jesus bookends the season. From the glory of his baptism at the beginning of his ministry to the glory of his transfiguration at its culmination, the voice of the Father declares what flesh had hidden from the world: This is my Son!

The rest of the Sundays in Epiphany are green. Like the green Sundays of Pentecost, they focus on growth and new life in the Church.

Prayer Request for Koch family

Marvin and Gretchen Koch (my in-laws and Jon's grandparents) went to heaven on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day-- 11 hours apart. Their health rapidly declined and we know that they are without pain and physical ailments now in heaven.

Many people in the congregation knew them from when my kids were in school here. Gretchen taught piano lessons here for several years.

The funeral service is being held Saturday morning at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Stevensville, Michigan.

Thank you, Barb Koch

New Recess Equipment

A big thank you to the individual(s) who anonymously gifted the basketball, jump ropes, and recess balls to GSLA! We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness. The GSLA students are excited to utilize this new equipment!



Toy Drive Thank You

Wow! Thank you to everyone who donated to the annual GSLA Toy Drive! The generosity displayed exceeded expectations and will go a long way in helping families at St. Marcus in Milwaukee and Emmaus Lutheran in Chicago.



MEMBER GIVING STATEMENTS

Records of member giving during the 2020 calendar year are kept on line in our church software. Sign up for access to your personal account and the giving records is quick and easy. Instructions are available on the table in the narthex. Online access will substitute for the paper copies of year-end giving statements that the church has produced in the past.

If you are a contributor to our congregation, but not yet a member, please contact the Good Shepherd office and request a giving statement for 2020. Please include a contact email or phone number.

Dean Gerdes President / Treasurer

Personal Member Ministry Love In Action

A big THANK YOU to everyone that donated to the Personal Member Ministry Love In Action opportunity we had before Christmas. Because of your generosity we collected 600 dollars in Jewel gift cards, 250 dollars in Visa gift cards, and 5 new pairs of snow boots! God is good! Our donations went to families in District 58 that contacted the District office saying they were struggling to pay rent/electric, weren't going to be able to buy gifts for their children, and one family had recently become homeless. Needless to say our donations were put to good use!

Thank you for sharing God's Blessings,
Hillary Brands

Update on Giving Envelopes

Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

This year we are not automatically providing envelopes to those that have not been using them for a variety of reasons. Each year a large number of boxes of envelopes are not picked up and this has been compounded by the pandemic with many members choosing to attend services online and give through our Vanco online process. When Giving Numbers are typed on the envelopes, we cannot reuse the envelopes that are not picked up for another member's use.

With this new approach in 2021, we can reallocate envelopes not needed by our members. We simply ask that you write the amount given on the envelope (as you have in the past) and add your giving number on the outside of the envelope under the amount given. If you don't recall your giving number, the Good Shepherd office can assist you or you can find your giving number under your profile in our church software. Even without this, we will be able to allocate the donation to your account as long as it is a check but it helps our current process with the giving number added. While we don't receive a large number of cash donations, if you do give cash, we do need the giving number or at least your name on the envelope. We are providing Building Fund envelopes quarterly this year. Anyone not receiving envelopes or enough envelopes may request additional and we'll be happy to provide them. With these changes, we are simply trying to best utilize the resources at Good Shepherd to better serve the Lord's Kingdom.



BLAST Sunday school

[GSDG.org/Get Involved/BLAST Children's Ministry](https://GSDG.org/Get%20Involved/BLAST%20Children's%20Ministry).

I want to start by saying that I pray your family had a beautiful Christmas holiday! My heart was sad on Christmas Eve that we weren't able to do our traditional Family Christmas Service. (I have already started thinking about next year's program, hope the kids are excited!?!)

As we draw this year to a close I wanted to reach out once more to your families to let your children know that I am thinking of them and that our team is making plans for this upcoming year.

1. I am attaching a document to this email that I'm hoping you will share with your children and in turn share with the congregation. We have had a very challenging year and I want the children to have an opportunity to move forward with a positive mindset for the upcoming year. I also want to remind them that God wants us to bring our concerns and thoughts to him, always.

Please print the attachment and ask your child to complete the statement, "In 2021, I will pray for..." They can choose something specific or broad. They can decorate the page if they wish.

Then I ask you to send a photo, if you choose, of your child holding the sign to BLAST@gsdg.org.

Finally encourage your child to put this sign somewhere where they will see it often and remember what they decided to pray for this year. The power of prayer is possible and I want your children to feel powerful in the prayer.

2. We are making plans for when we are able to join in person again to have BLAST on Sundays. We are looking at ways to follow the health and safety guidelines, while also being able to reconnect with all of you in person. Please watch for more information on this and consider how your family can participate in getting your children re-engaged in Sunday School. And we ask for your prayers as we look for solutions.

3. Finally, we will be hosting some virtual Team Training events. Our program cannot succeed without volunteers who are willing to participate in different roles. We need teachers and helpers in the classroom, people to help us communicate with the congregation, people to keep our bulletin board updated, people to purchase and prep crafts and activities for the upcoming week's lesson. All of these roles are vital to keeping our kids engaged and excited about coming to BLAST and learning about Jesus! Our first virtual **Team Training will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7p.** We will make the link available through the church newsletter and webpage. Please consider how you can support our program and plan on coming to listen in and contribute your thoughts about how we can make BLAST amazing!

Thank you everyone for all of your support over this past year. We look forward to worshipping with you and your children soon!

God's Blessings and Happy New Year!

Teresa Schindler

Online Spiritual Resources

We will continue to provide online, streamed worship services each weekend on our website, www.gsdg.org Other online resources you may enjoy at this time include the Time of Grace ministries website (<https://timeofgrace.org>). This WELS group provides a wealth of devotions and sermons on various topics.

The WELS website provides a directory of all WELS churches that stream worship, as well as devotions, Bible studies, and the latest update from our Synod President, Mark Schroeder (www.wels.net). One congregation providing traditional, midweek streamed worship is Christ Lutheran Church, Big Bend, Wisconsin (www.christbigbend.com)

God's blessings to you as you continue to feed on His Word!



The Poinsettias that help decorate the Alter for Christmas

If you would be interested in purchasing one they are \$10.00 each, checks should be made payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Please contact Karen Bassler with questions.

Stamps Needed for the Wounded

Many hospitalized or out-patient veterans find great enjoyment in stamp collecting. Thanks to the Lions' Club and many devoted volunteers, the Stamps for the Wounded postage stamp program gives these hospitalized or wheelchair-bound veterans something to do, something to look forward to, and connects them with other collectors.

During this time of the year, you may be receiving additional cards in the mail, please drop your stamps in the box outside the church office.

They are greatly appreciated by the center and their community. Please enjoy your Advent Season and Merry Christmas.



What is SCRIP?

With SCRIP, families can easily earn rebates while they shop purchasing gift cards through 750+ national retail stores where you already shop.

Earn rebates:

- towards the tuition of any student
- for the church general fund
- for special needs funds

Note: Some choices allow earned rebates to be tax deductible.

Shop and earn rebates with gift cards today at ShopWithScrip.com. SCRIP is now accepting payment by credit card when ordering online (a small transaction fee is collected by SCRIP.)

On-Hand Inventory (\$25 denomination cards)

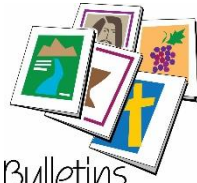
- We have a limited supply of the cards listed below. We accept cash or check payment made payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. If you are interested in purchasing any of these cards, please contact Carlene Derickson or Clint Daehnke.

- Kohl's
- Target
- Jewel
- Home Depot

[SCRIP-to-GO Order Form](#)

- Use this form if you do not have an online shopwithscrip account. Payment is due with your order. A SCRIP Agreement is still required to be on file.

[SCRIP Agreement](#) - in order to participate, a completed SCRIP agreement must be on file. Completed agreements should be placed in the SCRIP mailbox in the church/school office. Then contact the SCRIP Coordinator for our Enrollment Code that is needed when creating your SCRIP account.



Bulletins

January: Usher Schedule

27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve D Graefnitz 5:30 pm	1	2 S Danekas 5:30 pm
3 B Reichert 8:00 am J Roland 10:30 am	4	5	6	7	8	9 J Abegg 5:30 pm
10 E Guldberg 8:00 am B Merchantz 10:30 am	11	12	13	14	15	16 A Rush 5:30 pm
17 E Schindler 8:00 am D Graefnitz 10:30 am	18	19	20	21	22	23 J Roland 5:30 pm
24 D Schindler 8:00 am J Abegg 10:30 am	25	26	27	28	29	30 E Guldberg 5:30 pm
31 S Danekas 8:00 am T Oard 10:30 am	1	2	3	4	5	6 D Graefnitz 5:30 pm



January:

Communion Setup - Cleanup

Dec - 27	28	29	30	31	Jan - 1	2 Kathy O
3 Fran P	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Sue M
17 Inge W	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Feb - 1	2	3	4	5	6 Aggie R

CALENDAR

TODAY 8:00 am Worship Service
 10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY 5:30 pm Worship Service

SUNDAY 8:00 am Worship Service

 10:30 am Worship Service

Serving in Worship

Pastor: Jon Bergemann

Organist: Karen D'Aversa

Live Stream Team

Sun 8:00 am Kristen Reynolds & Bob Reichert

 10:30am Greg Busse

Contact Information

Pastor Jon Bergemann

office – 630.852.1519

Email – pastor.bergemann@gsdg.org

Principal David Roekle

Cell phone – 507.217.3492

7th and 8th Grade Teacher

Email – david.roekle@gsdg.org

Preschool Director Kathryn Blumer

Cell phone – 262.617.6924

Preschool Teacher and Director

Email – kat.blumer@gsdg.org

Personal Member Ministry Kristina Krug-John

MemberMinistry@gsdg.org

Church Secretary

Church office – 630.852.1519

Jennifer Reynolds

School office – 630.852.5081

Cell phone – 630-399-3648

Office Email – office@gsdg.org

Worship Attendance in God's House (01/02 and 01/03)

Saturday (5:30) –

Sunday (8:00) –

Sunday (10:30) –

Weekend Total – 113

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR GOD'S WORK

	Week Ending	Weekly Offering	YTD Offering	YTD Budget	% of Budget
Week 26	12/27/2020	\$22,387.09	\$ 288,594.75	\$320,000.00	88.9%
	Week Ending	Weekly Offering	YTD Offering	YTD Budget	% of Budget
NY Eve	12/31/2020	\$40,167.64	\$ 328,762.69	\$320,000.00	101.4%

STEWARDSHIP ENCOURAGEMENT FROM GOD'S WORD

I Timothy 6: 6 – 8 – Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing we will be content with that.

**In 2021, I will
PRAY for:**