



“After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” Mark 1:7,8

GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND PRESCHOOL

Downers Grove, Illinois

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

DECEMBER 9TH AND 10TH, 2017

Welcome to Good Shepherd!

We are glad to have you with us in worship today! We exist to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18) and to “go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” (Mark 16:15)

We love to have children in worship with us! The pews in the back of the church are reserved especially for families with young children. At times we understand that children can become overly restless or start crying loudly. For times like these, we offer a special room called “The Shepherd’s Nook” where you will find comfortable furniture and a closed-circuit television monitor so that you can still follow our worship service. It’s a great place for children to regain their composure and then rejoin us for worship. “The Shepherd’s Nook” is located just to the left of the picture at the end of the hallway. If you need directions, please ask an usher. There is also a restroom with a changing table in the hallway near the church lobby. Additional restrooms and a drinking fountain are at the end of the hallway. Our Restroom off of the Narthex does provide parents with a changing table and nursing Mothers privacy if desired.

For your comfort and convenience we have Large Print Bulletins, Hearing Devices, Crutches, and Wheelchairs. If the previously mentioned items would be helpful to you or if you desire any other assistance please contact an usher, they will be happy to help you.

For those unable to join us in person, our Sunday morning worship services are streamed live at www.gsdg.org. We also make audio recordings of our worship for our shut-ins and anyone else who might wish to make use of them or pass them along to others. Please ask an usher for details. So that we may have a record of your visit, we ask you to sign the Friendship Register which is a small maroon book located at the end of each pew.

Our Practice of Holy Communion

Believing that Holy Scripture teaches that Holy Communion is intended for those who are truly one in faith, this congregation practices Close Communion. This means that Holy Communion is reserved for those who are members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church or other WELS and ELS churches. If you wish to join us in the future, please speak with one of our pastors after worship.

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Savior's Message:

Because the coming of our Lord is so sure and so important, he sends forerunners (an advance team) to help people properly prepare their hearts for his coming. We will hear from three of those people in this hour and be encouraged to hear what they say, because they do their work with a message that is not their own, but God's.

my * sheep * LISTEN * TO
MY VOICE
I * KNOW * THEM * AND * THEY
FOLLOW ME

PRESERVICE MUSIC - Joan Richmond

PERSONAL PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Before Worship

O Lord – our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter – we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. We pray that you would open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

We worship our Savior God by expressing humble repentance for our sins, hearing his Word, singing our thankful praise, and offering our fervent prayers.

The Bethlehem Candle – 2nd Sunday in Advent

P: Prepare! The Christ is on his way
Into your heart and wants to stay.
He comes by Word and Sacrament
That all might of their sins repent.

C: **Help us prepare our hearts, O Lord.
Our sins reveal by your strong Word.
May we confess and from them turn,
For Jesus' pardon humbly yearn.**

OPENING HYMN

Hosanna to the Coming Lord | 21
(SATURDAY 5:30PM AND SUNDAY 8:00AM)

ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM

(SUNDAY 10:30 SEE PAGE 15 OF THE WORSHIP FOLDER)

INVOCATION

Please stand.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

CONFESSION

We confess to God that we have failed to live up to the perfect standard of his law and we ask for his mercy.

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

The pastor announces the message of forgiveness won for us by the perfect life and innocent suffering and death of our Savior, Jesus.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN

Blest Be the God of Israel | 275

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

The minister says the Prayer of the Day.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

Be seated.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

The message of God's messenger is this: We are nothing, but he is everything. We are born to die, but he comes to gently shepherd us and give us endless life.

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD^{bl}; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.^{bl} ⁴Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." ⁹You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem,^{bl} lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Hymn of response to the message of advance-man Isaiah: (by all on Saturday; on Sunday, vss. 1&4 by all; vs. 2 by women and girls; vs. 3 by men and boys)

11

Comfort, Comfort All My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace,"
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing In the des -
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough -



so says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,
 each dark mis - deed; All that well de - serve his an - ger
 ert far and near, Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance
 er plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Groan - ing from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all
 He no more will see or heed. They have suf -
 For the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn -
 Read - y for his ho - ly reign. For the glo -



Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.
 ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er,
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken



That their war - fare now is o - ver."
 In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 And the hills bow down to greet him.
 That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 3:8-14

Avoid any distractions that could keep you from being ready for the Lord's return, because the Lord's promise of his final coming to rescue and save you will be kept, just as the promise of his first coming was kept.

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.^{la} ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.^{lb} That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia

C: (repeats ♪): Alleluia

P: Alleluia

C: (♪): Alleluia

P: Sings

Prepare the way for the Lord, Make straight his paths;

All nations shall see the salvation of God.

P: Alleluia

C: (♪): Alleluia

P: Alleluia

C: (♪): Alleluia

Please stand.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptizer, God's final advance man for Jesus, was a very lowly man, but he delivered a powerful message of repentance and forgiveness that would make people who received that message ready for the only one who is truly great.

¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,^[a] the Son of God,^[b] ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"^[c]—³ "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"^[d] ⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with^[e] water, but he will baptize you with^[f] the Holy Spirit."

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | 16

Sermon Text – 2 Peter 3:8-14

Sermon Theme – How People of Advent Can Be

1. Patient and penitent
2. Confident and committed

Please stand.

Cre - ate in me a
 pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
 in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
 pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Be seated.

OFFERING

The offering is an expression of faith and gratitude of the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Our guests should not feel compelled to give an offering unless moved to do so in response to God's grace.

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Be seated.

HYMN

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying | 13

Please stand.

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

Closing Hymn

Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness | 376
verses 1,2,5

SILENT PRAYER AS THE CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED

Hymn 376, Verse 6

Jesus, be worshiped endlessly! Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.
Amen.

ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM
(SUNDAY 10:30 AM SERVICE)

Holy Baptism – Graham Johnathon Roekle, the son of Principal Apprentice David and Hannah Roekle, will become a child of God through Holy Baptism in our Sunday 10:30 service. Graham was born on November 21st, 2017. His sponsors/witnesses are Mike Roekle and Doug and Brittany Vierck. God’s richest blessings to Graham! Pastor John Roekle, father of David Roekle, who serves at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Racine, WI (WELS) will preform the baptism.

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C: **Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

M: As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONGREGATION SINGS:

**Jesus' words and living water
On a forehead gently laid –
For God's twice-born son or daughter
Then our prayer of peace is made.
You are welcome in this place,
Bought by blood and called by grace.
May the circle that surrounds you
Praise the One whose love has found you.**

The Rite of Baptism continues at the font.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

M: In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought Graham to be baptized. Jesus told us: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart (+) to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

Graham Johnathon Roekle, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you. Amen.

EXHORTATION

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Graham may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: **Yes, as God gives me strength.**

M: Let us pray:

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism By which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on Graham and grant him a rich measure of your Spirit that he may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

"O Lord,
How Shall
I Meet
Thee?"



*A Festival Service Concert
Combining the Word of God and Song*

Charles Bonow, Organist

Sat., Dec. 16th - 5:30 P.M.

Sun., Dec. 17th - 8:00, 10:30 A.M.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

525 63rd Street

Downers Grove

Acknowledgements

Scripture quotations are from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The worship service, *Service of Word and Sacrament* is from *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* ©1993 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission under *OneLicense.net* #A-717189.

SERVING THE LORD AND US

PRESIDING MINISTER Rev. David Rutschow

ORGANIST Joan Richmond

USHER/S

12/09	5:30 pm	Ken Hull	
12/10	8:00 am	Paul Kippes & Ed Boron	
	10:30 am	Chuck Rhodes & Greg Busse	
12/13	7:00 pm	Bob Reichert & Greg Busse (Advent)	
12/16	5:30 pm	Daniel John	
12/17	8:00 am	Andy Rush & Dave Bowen	
	10:30 am	Chris & Ryan Kruegel	
12/24	9:00 am	Erik Guldberg	
	4:30 pm	Steve Danekas & Bill Merchantz	
	10:30 pm	Dale Gaefnitz & Bob Vicker	

GREETERS

12/10	8:00 am	Lindsey Daehnke	10:30 am Karen Bassler
12/17	8:00 am	Laurie Bowen	10:30 am Doris Holcomb

ALTAR CARE

12/16	Jennifer Tyrrel & Doris Holcomb
12/24	No Communion

COFFEE SCHEDULE

12/10	Kathy Paradis
12/17	Pam Junkunc & Cindy Oard

WATERING SCHEDULE

Caring and Sharing

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24)

Christmas Cards for our Military Members

Dear Good Shepherd Family, The Christmas season is upon us, and we would like to send some Christmas love to those serving in our military. While you are filling out your Christmas cards, please consider writing one out for our four Good Shepherd members who are serving abroad.

Simply write out a Christmas card, place the military person's name on it, bring your cards back to church by Wednesday, December 20th, place them in the container marked "Christmas Cards for the Military" in the narthex, and I will mail them all out. You do NOT need to place a stamp on the envelope as I will be putting them all in an envelope and mailing them out.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to remind our Good Shepherd military members that we are thinking about them and sending them some Good Shepherd love.

If you have any questions, please email Vicki Smith at: bonusbaby1967@att.net

1. Captain Aaron Meek
2. SFC Adam Nemeth
3. A1C Brieanne Smith
4. SPC Trent Smith

Offering Envelopes Available

The 2018 offering envelopes are now available in the narthex for you to pick up. We encourage you to pick up your box of envelopes so that we may utilize as much space as possible for the additional seating that is set up for Christmas worship.

For those submitting offerings electronically, you are still assigned an envelope number to accurately record your offerings.

If you have questions about your offering envelopes, please contact the office.

Martin Luther College News – Scott Schumdlach

The Governing Board of Martin Luther College has appointed Scott Schumdlach, a former principal of and teacher in our school, to the position of Vice President for Administration at the college. He will assume the position at the end of this academic year.

Weinachtsfest: a German Christmas

Our sister congregation, Christ the King in Palatine, is hosting their annual German Christmas service and fellowship meal. All are invited to attend this wonderful worship opportunity and enjoy the festive German style fellowship meal. Weihnachtsfest will be held on December 17 at 6:30 pm with the meal immediately following. Christ the King [100 W. Michigan Ave., Palatine](#)

FrOGS News

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to our recent fundraising events. We are so blessed by the outpouring of generosity. Our Home Run Inn fundraiser benefited us more than \$800 and our painting night event raised \$500. We are pleased to say that we will be ordering our new drinking fountain for outside fellowship hall! The remaining fundraised money will be used to help purchase the nativity scene for outside our church and school.

Our next FrOGS meeting is scheduled for Saturday 1/20/2018 at 9am. All members of our church and school are invited to join us. God's blessings to all this Christmas season!

BLAST Update

Our community service project "Warm Their Soles" has been a huge success! We are excited to tell you that we have 202 pairs of warm socks to share with our friends at Oak Trace Senior Living Community. On Sunday, December 10th our BLAST kids will deliver them, sing a few of our Christmas songs and visit with residents. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Meal Train for David & Hannah Roakle

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

David and Hannah Roekle have been blessed with the gift of a healthy baby boy!

Graham Johnathon Roekle.

We are hoping to provide some meals for mom and dad. If you can help, please click and sign up below. Thanks! Meal Train Link: <https://mealtrain.com/oln1w8>

Any questions? Contact Megan Boerema - boerema.megan@gmail.com

Cookies for Puerto Rico Fundraiser – Christian Aid & Relief

The jars will then be made available for purchase by the congregation. All proceeds will be donated to Christian Aid and Relief - Puerto Rico. Both LWMS Chicago Area Circuit and Thrivent have been generous enough to supply grants to purchase all the supplies.

Midweek Advent Service & Supper

Midweek Advent Services begin on Wednesday evening, December 6th. Good Shepherd will once again be participating in an Advent rotation with Pastor Bryant of St. Timothy, Lombard. In addition to our Advent services, we will also be offering simple suppers before each service.

Food for the body will be served from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM. In order to help plan for the meals, if you are able, please sign-up on the sheets in the narthex. We are also looking for hosts/hostesses for the suppers for 12/13 and 12/20.

If your CTC group, youth group, or any other group you are involved in is interested in this opportunity to serve, please indicate in the space provided at the top of the sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Mecklenburg, Servae Christi Group Life Coordinator. Thank you!

Food for the soul will be served beginning at 7 PM. Our theme for this year is:

"Songs for the Savior"

Wednesday, December 13th - The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1: 68 - 79) (Pastor Rutschow)

Wednesday, December 20th - The Song of Simeon (Luke 2: 29 - 32) (Pastor Bryant)

We invite and encourage you to make the most of these opportunities to worship and praise our Advent King!

Order Poinsettia Plants

We will be ordering poinsettia plants (red and white) to decorate our altar on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We are hoping to fill both poinsettia trees again and to do so we are in need of 40 to 50 plants. The plants will have 5-7 blooms and will be in 6" foil-wrapped pots. The cost per plant is \$12.50. The last date to order is December 17th. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex indicating the number of poinsettias you are ordering. Payments should be placed in the locked box on the wall of the Narthex. Make checks payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Questions? Contact Fran Piepenbrink @ 630-325-3058 or Frannep@netzero.net Those who are donating poinsettias may take their plants home following the last service on Christmas Day. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Save-the-Date Open House Pre-K-8

Mark your calendars for January 18th. We will be hosting our annual Open House for the preschool and grades K-8.

Come tour our facilities, meet the staff, observe classes, and speak with current families.

January 18th

8:00 am - 11:30 am or 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Endowment Funds – Future Impact

All of us, individually and collectively, want to believe that we can make a difference. We look for ways to use our time, our talent, our money to make positive changes in our world. However, we often feel frustrated by the short-term duration of the work that we do. We work hard to plan and budget wisely, every year, year after year. Well, we can't effectively plan several years of annual budgets all at once, and we can't effectively organize more than one year's stewardship emphasis at a time, but we can take some other steps that will have a long-term positive impact on our congregation.

Finding ways to grow our endowment fund is one of those steps. It is a repository for long-term gifts from many donors. It is also a resource for long-term plans and projects, including our current vision planning effort that may not find sufficient resources in annual budgets.

The principal of the fund is invested and preserved for the long-term future of the congregation, and the income (or part of it) is spent on current needs.

Some of the benefits that may be realized from Good Shepherd's Endowment Fund that enhance Kingdom work include:

- Facilities expansion
- Scholarships for needy students
- Expanded fellowship activities
- Additional full-time called worker
- Expanded outreach programs and new ministries
- A more flexible ministerial budget

The endowment fund is shaped to meet the needs of our congregation. We invest our endowment funds for long-term growth and spend only part of each year's income. A portion of the income remains in the fund, building a buffer against inflation and future market fluctuations. In this way, gifts to the endowment fund are gifts that keep on giving year after year.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father. (James 1:17)

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee?”

On the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, December 16th and 17th, we have the privilege of welcoming guest organist Charles Bonow. He has been with us in the past and we are blessed to have him with us again. The services that weekend will be special services of Word and song led by him and our pastors and our choirs. A freewill offering will be collected after services that weekend as leading worship services in WELS and ELS churches around the country is his full-time ministry. We hope that you can join us! Please consider others that you might be able to invite to join us that weekend too!

Christmas Gift Giving for Those in Need

Christmas is a time of giving and just as we have done in the previous years, the school students will not exchange gifts with one another, but instead will share with others who are less fortunate. Grades 3-4 are sponsoring this gift drive.

Risen Savior Lutheran, Milwaukee, WI

We are asking for donations for Good Shepherd Alumni Brittany Chantamany's 2nd grade classroom. Risen Savior is an urban choice school for low income families. The toy you donate may be the only Christmas gift these children will receive.

Emmaus Lutheran Church

This WELS congregation is located in Chicago. Pastor Mike Borgwardt from Crossroads in Chicago is serving as their vacancy pastor. They do not have the financial resources to call a full time pastor. The Emmaus leadership has been very active in reaching out to children with God's Word. If you are able to participate, the gift should be new and unwrapped. We are collecting toys and hats, mittens, and gloves. You may place your gift in the boxes in the school entryway.

Collection boxes will be available until Friday, December 15. Please direct any questions to Barb Koch. Thank you for reaching out and showing Christ's love to those in need.

School Substitute Teacher List Being Updated

We are currently in the process of updating our substitute teacher list. Substitute teaching requirements are the individual must be a WELS or ELS member and have a college degree. Substitute teaching is a paid position. If you are interested in substitute teaching or know someone who might be, please contact Mr. Roekle at david.roekle@gsdg.org. Thanks!

Last day for the 13th Annual Gift Card Collection –

This year we will again be helping our Good Shepherd brothers and sisters in Christ who are experiencing financially challenging times. We ask that you purchase gift cards from Jewel, Aldi, Whole Foods, or other places to buy groceries, in order to make the holidays a little more blessed for those experiencing challenging times. If you prefer, you can submit cash and we will purchase the gift cards.

If you wish to participate, please place your gift cards/cash in an envelope. Envelopes are in a pocket on a locked box on the southwest wall of the entryway. Donations can be placed in that box. May all of you have a Christ-centered Christmas and a New Year rich in God's love.

Help Us Help Others - In an effort to make sure that no one is missed or neglected with our annual Christmas gift card distribution, please let us know if you or another Good Shepherd member you know is currently dealing with unemployment issues or might be experiencing other financial difficulties. Please email Pastor Rutschow (sewdp@aol.com) or Pastor Schwartz (pastormschwartz@juno.com). All emails and subsequent gift bequests will be kept anonymous and confidential. Thank you for helping us serve one another in love.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT -

Advent by Candlelight is a time for women to come together and focus their hearts and minds on the Lord. As women, it often feels like every moment of Advent is filled with decorating, baking, cooking, helping with children's programs, shopping, and wrapping gifts in preparation for celebrating Christmas. Let us come together to relax, sing songs of the season and hear messages centered on Jesus Christ.

This event is open to ladies from middle-school age thru adult. It is an opportunity for us to invite other women from different circles of life to take some time to rest in the Lord. We encourage you to reach out and to share God's amazing love with others through this time of worship.

Please join us on Friday, December 8th at 7pm! (sign-up sheet in the narthex)

Christmas Nativity Scene – Giving Board

Good Shepherd would like to purchase a nativity to be placed outside and visible from the road to add Christmas spirit to our property. We have a stable already that will be used and works well with the pieces we've selected. The striking Christmas Nativity Scene includes the Holy Family, and can include the Three Kings, an angel, a shepherd with a lamb, a donkey, an ox, a baby lamb and a camel. The set's tallest figure is Joseph, standing at 39-inches high. The figures are made of a heavyweight resin stone mixture and are carefully hand painted for a realistic appearance and may be used indoors or out. We will be accepting donations until November 30th, with hopes to purchase the Nativity in time for Christmas.

In the narthex you will find a giving board, with stars. Pull a star to make a donation. Stars coordinate with dollar amounts or the cost of one of the individual figures. Directions are on the board on where and how to make a donation. Thank you for considering.

College Ministry Help Needed - I am looking for student names, volunteers and donations for the college ministry. The college ministry is for all college students in our congregation whether they are away, staying home for a local college, trade school or in grad school. What we do is send them cards of encouragement and care packages throughout the school year to let them know that their church home is thinking of them. It's an important ministry to make our young college students know we are thinking of them and support them. First, we would like your students name and address. After the service I will hand out an information form about the student and it can be filled out and emailed back to Michelle Rush. We are also in need of volunteers to be on a committee for sending out cards and care packages to the students. Donations are also in need. We could use gift cards in \$10 increments to Starbuck's or Dunkin Donuts as well as cash donations to cover postage and care package items. Any gift card or cash donation could be put in the lock box in the narthex and labeled "college ministry". Please contact Michelle Rush to find out how you can volunteer to be on a committee for the college ministry. Her information will be on the form being handed out. Most of the tasks can be done from home and all supplies, names and addresses will be given to make it easy as possible. Thank you.

SCRIP (SUBSTITUTE CASH REBATE INCENTIVE PROGRAM)

Look for a SCRIP announcement from the School Committee in the coming weeks announcing an exciting opportunity to earn rebates for tuition accounts, the general fund, and the special needs accounts.

What is SCRIP?

With SCRIP, families can easily earn rebates for our church and schools while they shop.

Are you interested in joining us? Questions? E-mail our SCRIP Coordinator, Carlene Derickson, at scrip@gsdg.org for more information.

SCRIP is safe and secure! Many retailers participate in the SCRIP Program.

Visit www.shopwithscrip.com to learn more and see "What's New" with SCRIP and view "Specials" (increased rebates for a limited time).

Order Schedule: Orders and payments due by 12pm

- Monday, December 11th; delivered by December 15th

ON THE WEB

Check it out: www.gsdg.org. You can also find us at "Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church and School (WELS)" on Facebook.

A MEASURE OF OUR LOVE

The true treasure of our church is Jesus Christ our Savior, growing in our knowledge of him, and making him known to all people. The cheerful and generous freewill offerings of God's people not only support the work God has given us as a church, school, and preschool, but also provides for the training of future pastors and teachers and supports world mission work being carried out through our synod, the WELS.

The information below is a summary of how the Holy Spirit has moved the hearts of God's people to make use of their time in attending worship and make use of their treasures to support the work God has given us as a congregation.

Worship Attendance in God's House (11/26)

Saturday (5:30) – 28

Sunday (8:00) – 89

Sunday (10:30) – 115

Weekend Total – 232

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR GOD'S WORK

	Week Ending	Weekly Offering	YTD Offering	YTD Budget	% of Budget
Week 22	11/26/17	\$9,366.50	\$282,336.11	\$282,080	100.1%

STEWARDSHIP ENCOURAGEMENT FROM GOD'S WORD

Proverbs 11: 25 – A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship Service
	9:20 am	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Boy Pioneers
		OWLS Meeting
		BLAST Sunday School Children Delivering socks
MONDAY 12/11	12:00 pm	SCRIP Orders Due
	3:45 pm	Basketball Practice @ St. Mark
TUESDAY 12/12	6:00 pm	Catechism
	7:15 pm	Adult Choir
WEDNESDAY 12/13	5:30 pm	Advent Supper
	7:00 pm	Advent Worship (Children's Choir Sings)
THURSDAY 12/14	3:45 pm	Basketball Practice @ St. Mark
FRIDAY 12/15		
SATURDAY 12/16	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Bible Study
	9:00 am	Christmas Eve Program Practice
	5:30 pm	Worship Service with Charles Bonow
SUNDAY 12/17	8:00 am	Worship Service with Charles Bonow
	9:20 am	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service with Charles Bonow
	3:00 pm	Preschool Christmas Program
	6:30 pm	Weihnachtsfest @ Christ the King, Palatine (German Service & Fellowship meal)
<u>SAVE THE DATE</u>		
Monday 12/18	3:45 pm	Basketball Practice @ St. Mark
Wednesday 12/20	11:30 am	Early Dismissal K-8 th 12:00 pm Pre-K Christmas Break begins at dismissal
Saturday 12/23		No Worship
Sunday 12/24	9:00 am	4 th Sunday in Advent Worship (No Bible Classes or Sunday School)
	4:30 pm	Children's Christmas Eve Program
	10:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Monday 12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Worship



Welcome!

The mission of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church is to sustain each of our members in the faith by working together in harmony for the spiritual growth and health of the congregation and reaching out to bring the gospel of Christ to others

Seek the Lost + Feed the Flock + Serve our Savior

If you are new to our area or looking for a church to call your own, please accept our invitation to meet with one of our pastors. Please feel free to return to worship with us again!

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church is part of a group of more than 1200 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations across the United States as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod as well as churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, or ELS.

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool
525 63rd Street – Downers Grove, IL 60516

Check us out on the web at www.gsdg.org

Contact Information (Pastors, Full-Time Teachers, and Secretaries)

Pastor Matthew E. Schwartz Full-time Pastor, Acting Principal	Home office – 630.783.9495 Cell phone – 331.318.9769 Email – pastormschwartz@juno.com
Pastor David N. Rutschow (Part-time Pastor)	Home office – 630.852.7914 Cell phone – 630.251.0184 Email – sewdp@aol.com
Principal Apprentice David Roekle 7 th and 8 th Grade Teacher	Cell phone – 507.217.3492 Email – david.roekle@gsdg.org
Preschool Director Kathryn Blumer Preschool Teacher and Director	Cell phone – 262.617.6924 Email – kat.blumer@gsdg.org
Dean of Academics Barb Koch 3 rd and 4 th Grade Teacher	Cell phone – 630.209.2242 Email – bkoch@gsdg.org
Church Secretaries Jennifer Reynolds and Carlene Derickson	Church office – 630.852.1519 School office – 630.852.5081 Office Email – office@gsdg.org
Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Katie Schwartz	Cell phone – 708.955.7940 Email – katieschwartz25@gmail.com
1 st and 2 nd Grade Teacher Miss Ellen Zank	Home phone – 630.271.9838 Email – em_zank@hotmail.com
5 th and 6 th Grade Teacher Mrs. Vicki Smith	Home phone – 630.739.7469 Email – bonusbaby1967@att.net