

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN

February 2025 Newsletter



And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:14

Joyfully His

By Pastor Jonathan Jahnke



Dear people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

It has been nearly 3 years since my family, and I moved here to Alexandria. I never knew life could be filled with so many moments of joy, celebration, and thanksgiving. I've seen my young daughter be welcomed with open arms, embraced, and supported in ways I had only thought possible in dreams. People have offered and given so much to my wife and you all have helped welcome my son as if he was one of your own.

As I hit cultural milestones and grew into adulthood, I remember instances, not necessarily around here although I'm sure many of you have felt the same where well-meaning folks were nervous how the world was going, how raising kids in this world was only going to get more difficult. We live in a lonely, isolated world, that often is focused more on our individual identities, extreme personalities, and having strong opinions, rather than a common good forged around sacrificial living and giving. And I could see how that would scare anyone, but you know someone who has sacrificed for you, who sought to save everyone from themselves and did. You shared him with us. You loved us strangers just as you have been loved. I love this community because I know that love will never run dry.

Joyfully His....

You remind me of words from one of my favorite songs which says this,

"O Christ, who led the Twelve,

among the desolate

and broke as bread of life for all

Your love compassionate:

Lead us along the ways

where hope has nearly died

and help us climb the lonely hills, where love is crucified.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve

on roads they'd never trod,

to serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim

The nearer reign of God:

Send us on ways where faith transcends timidity,

Where love informs and hope sustains both life and ministry."

I hope this love letter reminds you to keep loving those who have nearly had their hope die out, that you might live sacrificially for them as you have for me and my family when it would've been easier to live for yourself.

Thank you for your love.

Love,

Pastor Jon Jahnke



ELDERS CORNER

Simply Because It Is True

In today's world, it can feel like opinions often matter more than facts. But at the heart of the Christian faith is the simple, powerful idea of believing in Jesus because it's true. It's not about convenience, popularity, or personal comfort—it's about trusting the unchanging truth of His life, death, and resurrection.

The Apostle Paul puts it this way in 1 Corinthians 15:14: "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." That's a big statement, but it's true. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then everything about Christianity falls apart. The resurrection is the foundation of it all.

Sometimes, people think of faith as a personal preference, like picking a favorite dessert. But faith in Jesus isn't just about what feels good to us. It's about what's real. Either Jesus rose from the dead, or He didn't. There's no middle ground.

If the resurrection is true, then everything Jesus said about Himself and about us matters deeply. His claim to be "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) isn't just a comforting thought—it's reality.

Faith in Jesus isn't blind. It's grounded in historical evidence, personal stories, and the incredible ways God has worked throughout history. The empty tomb, the eyewitness accounts, and the transformation of countless lives all point to the truth of His resurrection.

So, why do you believe in Jesus? Let it be because it's true. Let the truth of His life, death, and resurrection shape every part of your life. As Paul reminds us, if the resurrection isn't true, then nothing else matters. But if it is true, then nothing else can compare.

-Brandon Luedeke



Pastor Jahnke
701.306.2072



Greg
Armbruster
952.288.3953



Loren Boysen
320.760.0199



Gary
Christianson
320.491.0258



Dave Erickson
320.491.3703



Jason Norheim
320.808.4156



Brandon
Luedeke
320.304.4237



Paul Luedeke
320.760.6937



Keith Ramsay
320.219.2129

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Greetings~

Here are the business item highlights from our January Executive Council Meeting.

1 Flooring in the Fellowship Hall

Discussion was held regarding replacement of carpet or other options like hard flooring or a combination of both. While the council is currently hold discussions about strategic priorities for the congregation, the Fellowship Hall floor is an immediate need. Trustees will be gathering additional estimates for the cost of each. The Fellowship Team is considering designating part of the profits from events they host to updating the Fellowship Hall.

2 Discussion on two services on Sunday morning .

We watched a video called “[Sunday Worship Services: Is More Better?](#)”. Our goal in watching this video was to continue conversations about the growth that God has given to our congregation and steward it in a faithful way. This didn’t involve any business being decided. One discussion point was to keep one service until we physically cannot fit or conduct the service in a quality way.

If you would like to watch the link please look up the above title on YouTube or reach out to the office. Any feedback you would like to share with the council is gladly welcomed!

3. Dedicated Service to the Lord THANK YOU LINDA!

Linda Huhnerkoch has graciously served over 20 years as our financial secretary. She helped compile and distribute end of the year giving for the whole congregation over that time. She has been a great blessing and we want to celebrate the gifts God has given her that she used to help us all!

Thank you, Linda! Kevin Mork is taking the position going forward please see him with any contribution questions.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

There is a lot of business and jobs that have to be taken care of in our Church from conducting worship services, bible class, Sunday school, confirmation and all other church organizations.

I encourage you to look at all the different groups, missions, and/or committees and choose one to check out their meetings and see what they do.

There is a lot of fellowship that takes place at each meeting.

Many Hands Make Light Work for all.

Thanks

Loren Boysen

Council Chairman



Please reach out to any one of the Executive Council members with questions or feedback. We would love to hear from you.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2025

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Loren Boysen Chairman | Dave Bertek Vice Chair | Evelyn Beulke Treasurer | Stephanie Bertek Secretary | Denise Norheim Council Member |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Gary Lips Council Member | Kevin Mork Council Member | Bill Teschendorf Council Member | Carol Barenz Council Member | Pastor Jonathan Jahnke |

TREASURE

FEBRUARY 2025

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fund Balance December 2024

| | | FUNDS | EXPENSES |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Current Month's Offerings | | \$40,828.62 | |
| Year To Date Total Offerings | | \$344,254.29 | |
| Thrivent Choice Dollars - YTD | | \$2,934.00 | |
| Miscellaneous Income - YTD | | \$1,030.00 | |
| LCEF Account Transfer- YTD | | \$0.00 | |
| Current Month's General Expense | | | \$34,273.99 |
| Year to Date Total Expense | | | \$351,444.17 |
| Current Month Net Less Expense | \$6,597.63 | | |
| Year to Date Net Less Expense | (\$3,225.88) | | |

Weekly Income and Attendance info will be emailed on Thursdays afternoon! If you have not been receiving this email, please inform the Church office asap so, you may be added to our list. Executive Council Monthly Minutes /Treasure reports are posted on Bulletin board in hallway by Fellowship Hall.

HOW TO GIVE USING VANCO MOBILE

(Support our ministries from anywhere.)

Go to the App Store or Google Play to download the Vanco Mobile app for free.

GET STARTED

- 1) Create your**
login and password
- 2) Search for Our Church**
Enter our church's name and click Search.
Then, select our church.
- 3) Select Your Fund and Amount**
Select your fund and donation frequency, then select your payment method.
- 4) Enter Payment Method**
Select a payment method and enter your credit card, debit card or bank account information.
You can save this payment method for future donations.
- 5) Choose to Cover Processing Fees**
You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount on top of your gift.
Click the button to opt in.
- 6) Complete Your Donation**
Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.
You can also find giving online by visiting our Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Website



Scan Here

Go to our website

- a) [Missouri Synod | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church | United States](https://www.missourisynod.org/giving/good-shepherd-lutheran-church)
- b) Click on "Give"
- c) Choose online giving.



Evelyn Beulke,
Treasurer



Good Shepherd Website

Altar Guild



We will soon be entering the second great division of the Church Year. Lent, the time of preparation for Easter.

In the Early Church it was a period of preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, which would take place of the Vigil of Easter. This preparation included fasting and other spiritual disciplines.

The first section of this time is the season of Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, the exact date depends on the date of Easter, which this year Ash Wednesday is on March 5th and Easter is on April 20th. The name "Ash Wednesday" comes from a practice which originated in the Middle Ages of ashes being sprinkled over the heads of those who came to church and went to confession. Today, the ashes come from palms that were blessed on Palm Sunday the year before. Both this rite and traditional readings for the day call for an attitude of humility and repentance.

Lent consists of forty days of abstinence and fasting, excluding the Sundays in between, which are not Sundays of Lent but Sundays in Lent. There are five Sundays in Lent. The fourth Sunday is called Laetare, which means "rejoice." This Sunday was introduced to relieve some of the rigors of observing the Lenten fast, it can be considered the anticipation of the joy of Easter. This season continues until the eve of Palm Sunday.

The color for Lent is blue, symbolizing sorrow and repentance. Because of the mood of Lent is subdued, ornamentation in addition to the paraments and standard appointments (flowers etc.) is inappropriate.

Please Thank Elaine and Evelyn Beulke for their care of the Altar in January. Kari Kremer and family will care for the Altar in February.



Amory Anderson

Sunday School

I hope you are all having a great start to the new year! Sunday School celebrated the end of 2024 with a birthday party for Jesus! All the kids came together for cake, coloring, and games!



We have such a special group of kids that love to include all their friends of all ages! I am excited to see what the rest of the year brings for Sunday School.

Thank you to everyone for the continued support and prayers, Sunday School wouldn't be the same without you all!

Looking forward to another visit from Lutheran Island Camp in March, more details to come!

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

Myah Kremer



Future Executive Council



GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY FUN AND MISSIONS

FELLOWSHIP

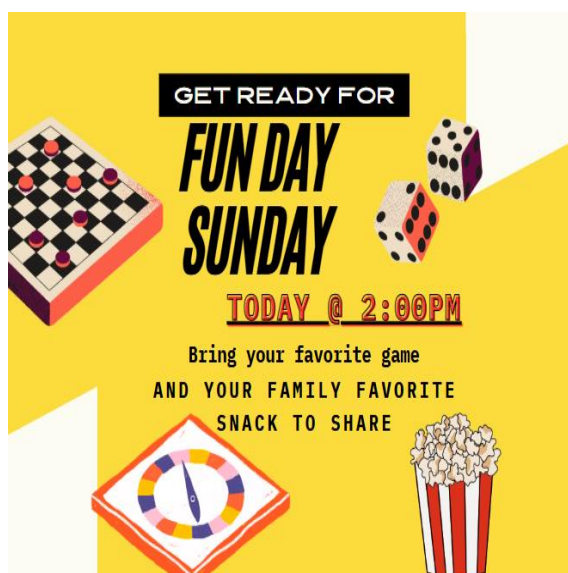
Now that we survived the latest polar vortex are you ready to get out and have some fun and fellowship??

Come join us on Sunday afternoon, February 2nd from 2 - 4 pm.

Bring along any of your favorite family cards, board games etc. along with some snacks to share.

We will provide the coffee and lemonade.

Bring the whole family and share some good fellowship with your church family.



L.W.M.L

Lutheran Women in Mission

Due to the extreme cold, we cancelled our January LWML meeting.

Our Spring Rally planning meeting will be Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. at Good Shepherd.

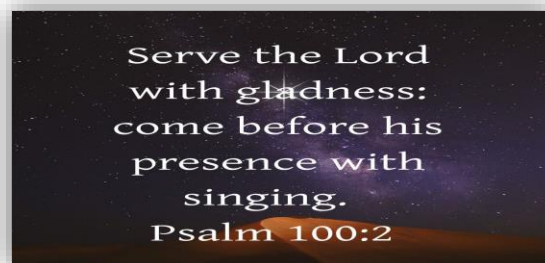
Our February LWML meeting will be on Monday, February 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Education Wing. Marcia Lips will do a Bible Study and the major item of business will be our annual mission gifting.

On March 17, 2025 we will host the Annual Prayer Service at Good Shepherd.




*Barb Schuneman
President*

"Serve the Lord with gladness!"
Psalm 100:2



Color Me!

Hey Kids and Kids at heart! Color this and return to office to help me decorate the office.



Serve the
Lord with
Gladness!
Psalm
100:2

GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY FUN AND MISSIONS

Love Patches

Love Patches has seven members who have been busy making quilts for comfort and baptisms. In 2024 we completed 35 quilts, gave 25 lap quilts for comfort and 11 quilts for baptisms.

Gail Johnson has given us many quilt tops and backings for us to finish. Because of this we will never run out of work.

Lately we have been working to replenish our supply of baby quilts. If you know someone who is going through a rough time, check with one of the quilters (Marian, LaVonne, Amory, Jennifer, Kay, Marlys, Joan or Marilyn) and we will let you pick out a quilt to give them.



Marian Brešje



GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY FUN AND MISSIONS

Valentine's Day Fundraiser *Parents Night Out!*

Date: **Friday, February 14th** Time: **6:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church | Alexandria, MN

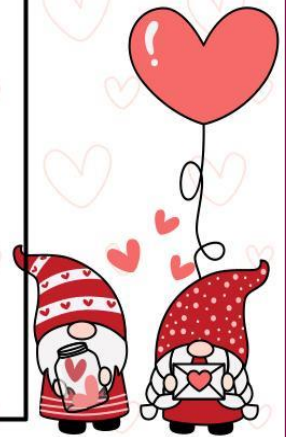
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Youth Group is raising money to attend the National LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA in July. <https://www.lcmsgathering.com>

Childcare provided by youth group and their parents.

Snacks, crafts, & games will be provided.

FreeWill donations accepted.

Please RSVP to Chaz and Carrie C. at 320-808-0219



A Special

Thank You

to

Linda Huhnerkoch

We appreciate your commitment
and dedication as the
Financial Secretary
for 20+ years!

Good Shepherd Family is truly blessed.



GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY HAPPENINGS

Such a wonderful event is coming soon to Good Shepherd. Would you be willing to help? Volunteer(s) are needed for:

HOST HOME COORDINATOR: You will plan and coordinate hosts for overnight housing for the students and chaperones

Meal Planner: Brent and Danielle Meinert have graciously volunteered to coordinate this meal. More detail to come!

Singing Saints 2025 Spring Tour Itinerary

Dr. Jerrode Marsh, Director



Concerts

Friday, February 28
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
612 Jennings St., Sioux City, IA 51101
CONCERT: 7:00pm

Saturday, March 1
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
2702 MN-29, Alexandria, MN 56308
CONCERT: 6:30pm

Sunday, March 2
Immanuel Lutheran Church
709 S Douglas Ave, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361
SERVICE 9:00am

Messiah Lutheran Church
320 4th Ave N, Sartell, MN 56377
CONCERT: 7:00pm

Monday, March 3
Glory of Christ Lutheran Church
4040 Highway 101 N, Plymouth, MN 55446
CONCERT: 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 4
Hope Lutheran School
312 E. Broadway, Winona, MN 55987
WORKSHOP: 1:00 pm

Saint Martin Lutheran Church
328 E Broadway St, Winona, MN 55987
CONCERT: 7:00pm

Wednesday, March 5
Saint Paul Lutheran Church
1100 SE Sharon Dr, Ankeny, IA 50021
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES/CONCERT: NOON and 7:00pm

Thursday, March 6
Mt. Olive Lutheran School
5625 Franklin Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310
WORKSHOP: 10:00am

Immanuel Lutheran Church
402 S. Folger St, Carrollton, MO 64633
CONCERT: 7:00pm

Sunday, March 16 HOME CONCERT
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
401 S. Main, Concordia, MO 64020
CONCERT: 7:00pm

Tour Schedule

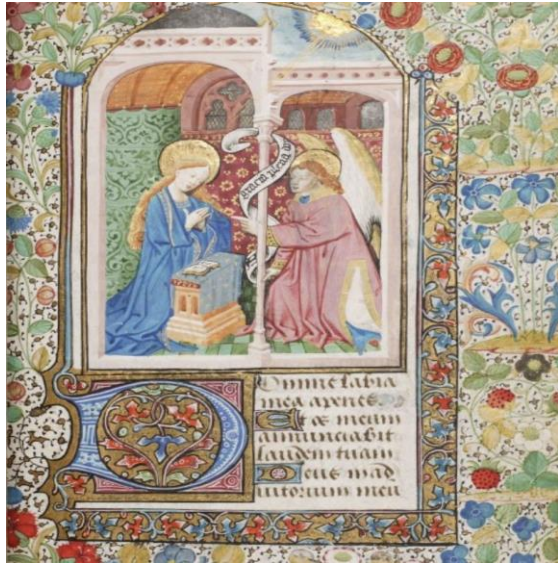
Saint Paul Lutheran High School | Concordia, Missouri | www.splhs.org

Mission and other Events...

Saint John's University Bible and Rare Books Tour March 14, 2025

Join Jacque Breman at St. John's University on March 14th starting @ 9:15am-3:00pm

Presentations include:



- Dr. Matthew Heintzelman "HMML and the Rare Book Collection"
- Eamon Cavanaugh "The Saint John's Bible presentation"
- Tour of "The Saint John's Bible Gallery to view 28 original manuscript pages from the project."



Contact Jacque Breman for questions:

386.965.0880 phone or via email: civilday@ufl.edu

Bible Camp Team – South Africa

Our partners in the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA) are excited to host a Bible Camp for the children in their congregations and the community.

Your team will help these little ones grow in the Word while having fun!

Dates: July 14-22, 2025

Cost: Approximately \$3,965-\$4,000/person

Cost Includes: food, lodging, project costs, coordination and international medical insurance. (airfare and other costs may vary)
Interested? Please speak with Pastor Jahnke



Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| <i>2-Feb</i> | <i>Deanna Griese Janet Teschendorf</i> |
| <i>3-Feb</i> | <i>Val Christopherson</i> |
| <i>4-Feb</i> | <i>Trent Lueth</i> |
| <i>5-Feb</i> | <i>Kevin Mork</i> |
| <i>6-Feb</i> | <i>Jason Norheim</i> |
| <i>7-Feb</i> | <i>Angela Lipp</i> |
| <i>8-Feb</i> | <i>Luke Samari</i> |
| <i>10-Feb</i> | <i>Donald (Don) Wilke</i> |
| <i>11-Feb</i> | <i>Myah Kremer Richard Duncan Peggy Erickson Jan Grosenick</i> |
| <i>12-Feb</i> | <i>Danielle Jahnke Judah Jahnke</i> |
| <i>13-Feb</i> | <i>Kaia Christianson</i> |
| <i>14-Feb</i> | <i>Kay Nibbe Kendra Swenson</i> |
| <i>18-Feb</i> | <i>Marly Nolz</i> |
| <i>19-Feb</i> | <i>Courtney Hodgson</i> |
| <i>19-Feb</i> | <i>Quincy Luedeke Matt Johnson</i> |
| <i>21-Feb</i> | <i>Pamela Reese</i> |
| <i>24-Feb</i> | <i>Lynn Murray Stephanie Bertek</i> |
| <i>25-Feb</i> | <i>Cydnee Luedeke Gene Meier</i> |
| <i>27-Feb</i> | <i>Wade Schimmelpfennig</i> |

Happy Anniversary to:

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>10 Feb</i> | <i>Gus and Jo Berninghaus</i> |
| <i>14 Feb</i> | <i>John and Emily Short</i> |

Good Shepherd Events

February 2025



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>26 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School</p> | <p>27 6:30pm Dart Ball GS @ Villard</p> | <p>28 9:00am GS Moms Group 4:30pm Worship Team Practice</p> | <p>29 10:00am Bible Study</p> | <p>30 9:00am Love Patches</p> | <p>31 9:30am Church Reserved Life Coop</p> | <p>1</p> |
| <p>2 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 2:00pm SUNDAY FUN DAY</p> | <p>3 6:30pm Dart Ball Zion 1 @ GS</p> | <p>4 4:30pm Worship Team Practice</p> | <p>5 10:00am Bible Study</p> | <p>6 9:00am Love Patches 6:30pm Uplifters Alexandria</p> | <p>7 9:30am Church Reserved Life Coop</p> | <p>8</p> |
| <p>9 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School</p> | <p>10 Dart Ball Make Up Games 4:15pm LWML Lead Meeting 6:30pm VBS 2025 KICK OFF MEETING</p> | <p>11 9:00am GS Moms Group 4:30pm Worship Team Practice 5:00pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm Executive Council Meet</p> | <p>12 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm FHALL Reserved PEO</p> | <p>13 9:00am Love Patches</p> | <p>14 NYG Babysitting Fundraiser 9:30am Church Reserved Life Coop</p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am DART BALL Tournament @ Zion</p> | <p>17 6:30pm LWML Meeting</p> | <p>18 9:00am Pastor's reserve Library 4:30pm Worship Team Practice 7:00pm Elders Meet</p> | <p>19 10:00am Bible Study</p> | <p>20 9:00am Love Patches 6:30pm Uplifters Alexandria</p> | <p>21 9:30am Church Reserved Life Coop</p> | <p>22</p> |
| <p>23 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25 9:00am GS Moms Group 4:30pm Worship Team Practice</p> | <p>26 10:00am Bible Study</p> | <p>27 9:00am Love Patches</p> | <p>28 9:30am Church Reserved Life Coop</p> | <p>1 6:30pm SINGING SAINTS Choir Concert</p> |