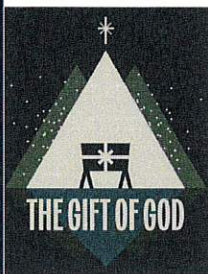


*I am the **Good Shepherd.** The good **Shepherd** lays down his life for the sheep.*



## Christmas—God’s Gift to You

“When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons”.  
 (Galatians 4:4,5)

It’s the moment for which children wait so excitedly: the time for tearing open Christmas presents. It’s thrilling to see their excitement and joy to find out what lies beneath the bow and paper. But often, just as quickly as the excitement erupted, it begins to disappear. When the flying bows and paper settle, feelings of disappointment and ingratitude so often start to surface. The moment everyone so eagerly looked forward to becomes yet another disappointment.

For so many, the Christmas season and celebration ends up like the boxes strewn across the floor—empty. Because, eventually, the decorations are taken down, the parties end, and life goes back to normal.

But this won’t be the case when we remember what Christmas is really about. Christmas is the celebration of the gift of God’s one and only Son, a gift he gave to the world. It’s the gift that I need, that you need, that this whole world needs. You see, this world—including you and me—is wrapped and covered in sin. It is this covering of sin that leaves us empty and disappointed and looking for more gifts and other presents that we hope will fill the void. But they can’t.

It is only through the gift of God’s Son, his life and death for us, that the ugly covering and wrapping of our sin is removed from us. Jesus did not come to be placed under a Christmas tree, but to hang upon a tree, not as an ornament, but as the one who would die upon it to pay for all of our sins. His perfect, innocent life and death are gifts he offers to you to make you his perfect and holy child and heir of heaven. Christmas is so much more than presents placed beneath a tree. It’s the sure and certain fulfillment of God’s most treasured gift to you—your Savior from sin, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Paul Janke

## Worship our Lord with Joy!

Saturdays at 5:00 pm; Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am.  
**Holy Communion** is offered the 2nd and 4th weekends of the month.



Join us for **Thanksgiving Worship**  
 Wednesday, **November 27<sup>th</sup>** at  
 6:30 pm or Thursday, **November**  
**28<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 am. This is a wonderful  
 opportunity to reflect on God’s

goodness to us and praise him for his awesome blessings. *“Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!”*

**Thanksgiving Food Drive** – You are invited to bring non-perishable goods prior to Thanksgiving to the designated box in the Fellowship Hall. 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.



**Jesus Cares:** You are invited to our monthly Jesus Cares worship services for people with special needs. Our upcoming services are Tuesday, **December 3** and January 7 at 6:00 pm. Promo flyers are available in the Welcome Center. Invite a friend with special needs and attend these blessed services with them.

### Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays - 10:00 am and 6:30 pm;  
 December 4, 11, and 18

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 – “The Trees of Christmas”

The Tree of Rebellion  
 The Tree of Promise  
 The Tree of Life





**Advent Dinners** are held this year **December 4, 11, and 18** from 5:15-6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy tasty food and warm fellowship. We can use some volunteers to assist our teens with setup, serving, and cleanup. 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 - 9:15 am**

**Sunday Bible Study** - Are you wrestling with hard questions? Wondering where God is in the midst of life's challenges? Join us our Bible study: "**Habakkuk: Questions, Answers, & Praise.**" Led by Pastor Schlicht, we'll dive into the raw, honest dialogue between the prophet Habakkuk and God—a conversation filled with deep questions, divine answers, and a journey from frustration to praise. Together, we'll see how God's love in Christ flows through this ancient book and how his faithfulness leads us to trust and worship, even when life doesn't make sense.



### Sunday Morning Bible Study Topics in December

December 8 – Lutheran Worship 500

December 15 and 22 -God's Gracious Callings for Men and Women

**Youth Mornings** - Activities include icebreaker game, praise songs, keynote from Pastor Mueller, Crumbl Cookies and male/female breakout sessions led by young adult leaders. Youth Mornings will be held **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, & May 11 from 9:15-10:15am. We will begin in the 7th grade classroom and break into small groups from there. Ages include 8th grade-12th grade.

**Head & Heart Bible Study & Fellowship** for ages 18-30 at Pastor Schlicht's home, 6:00-8:00 pm. Mondays twice a month, **December 2 & 16**. Discuss current topics together, bring your friends and a Bible to write in. For more information, text 920-268-2962.

**Monday Evening Women's Bible Study** - "You Can Trust God Even When Life Hurts" - Join us twice a month selected evenings! It will be on the topic of trust, using the book by popular Time of Grace writer, Amber Swenson. Monday at 6:30 pm: **Dec. 2 & 16** in the Fellowship Hall. All women invited. Team taught by Marilynn Sievert and selected others.

**Wednesday morning Bible Study** - "The Gospel of Mark: Your Kingdom Come." is held at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Led by Pastor Paul Janke. No Class November 27<sup>th</sup>.

## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT GOOD SHEPHERD!

### Good Shepherd Choirs

**Christmas Concert – "Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"**  
**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** (Please note time; this replaces the 5:00 pm service)

### Children's Christmas Services

#### "Joy Has Dawned"

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 & 4:00 pm**

This children's service traces the dawn of various eras in God's love for humanity: the dawn of time, the dawn of hope following the fall into sin, the dawn of joy at Jesus' coming that first Christmas, and the dawn of the New Testament church.

Dress rehearsals for these children's services will be held Friday, **December 13<sup>th</sup>** at 8:45 and 10:30 am to which the public is invited, which may free up more room for seating on Sunday.

### Sunday School Christmas Service

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> as part of 10:30 am worship service**

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 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

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**

### New Year's Eve Communion Worship

**Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm**

## Sacred Concerts & Special Events

**OWLS Update** - The next OWLS meeting will be Monday, **November 25**, 10:00 am at Shepherd of the Hills. Amy Hackman from Aurora Health will speak on "Managing Your Medicine Cabinet". Everyone is invited. After our brief business meeting we will enjoy another potluck, so please bring a dish to share.

### Advent By Candlelight, Tuesday, December 3rd - "The



QR code  
Advent by  
Candlelight

King Shall Come" We invite all women to join us for an evening together as we prepare our hearts for the Advent of our King! Doors open at 6:30 pm. Program begins at 7pm. Light refreshments will be served. Invite your friends! Please register using the QR code.





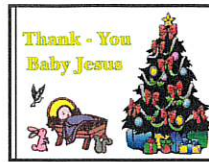
**Thursday - Griefshare** - Held at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. You find yourself alone, facing questions you've never faced before. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. For information, contact Pastor Paul Janke.

**Women's Friday Morning Bible Study** - "You Can Trust God Even When Life Hurts" - Join us from 8:00-9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall when school is in session. This study will be on the topic of trust, using the book popular Time of Grace writer, Amber Swenson. All women invited. Team taught by Marilyn Sievert and selected others. We have child care!

**Our new Bible Information Class**, "Our New Life with Jesus" will be held **Monday nights** at 6:30 pm, beginning **January 6th**. (14 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. Led by Pastor Robert Hein.

We are also considering offering a team led **Sunday morning BIC** option at 9:15 am beginning **January 5th**. This may work well for parents with children who may attend Sunday School if they are 3 and up, or receive free childcare. To register, for either option, contact Pastor Hein at 334-7881.

**Shaped to Serve Workshop** - Come and learn how God has blessed you with spiritual gifts and opportunities to glorify God and serve others in every aspect of your life. It's also a great way to get connected to ministry at Good Shepherd. This popular two hour workshop is being held Saturday, **January 25th** from 9-11 am. Free childcare will be provided in the gym at our gym playday or parents who attend the workshop. To prepare, we ask you to complete some prep work at home. Sign up using this QR code or in the Welcome Center or contact Cathy Moldenhauer at [cmoldenhauer@gslswb.org](mailto:cmoldenhauer@gslswb.org).



**Christmas for Kids** will be **Saturday, December 7th** 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, video, Bible story and fun. Invite your unchurched friends! If you would like to help, fill out a volunteer form at church or contact Maria Reis. Register children online at [www.goodshepherdwvls.org](http://www.goodshepherdwvls.org) or pick up a registration form at church. Children 5th grade through adults are invited to help. 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 8th** at 2:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

**Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Christmas Concerts** are Sunday, **December 8th** at 3:00 and 7:00 pm.

**The Wednesday Bible Study Christmas Luncheon** will be held Tuesday, **December 10th** at Noon in the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall.

**KML Christmas Choir Concert** will be Saturday, **December 14th** at 6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center.



**The Little Lambs Christmas Program** will be in church Saturday, **December 14th** 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. Bring to the Fellowship Hall by 9:15 am that morning.

**A Congregational Bible Breakfast** will be held Saturday, **January 11th** from 8:00-9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Mike Helwig from Christian Family Solutions will offer an overview of Mental Health concepts and how Scripture empowers God's people to flourish in the face of life's challenges. 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 & Memorials

In memory of Judy Kohn from family and friends -  
\$1,720 Church Memorial Fund;  
\$230 Building Connections

In memory of Bob Searvogel from family and friends -  
\$205 for Building Connections, \$80 General Fund

In memory of Jim Kannenberg from his wife Judy-  
\$500 for Building Connections



*My sheep listen to  
my voice,  
I know them,  
They follow me.  
I give them  
eternal life and  
they shall never  
perish.*

### Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

777 Indiana Avenue, West Bend, WI 53095

Phone: 262-334-7881

[www.goodshepherdwels.org](http://www.goodshepherdwels.org)

Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran—West Bend, WI

## Service and Fellowship Opportunities

**Beautify our church for Christmas!** If you would like to order a Poinsettia to beautify our church for Christmas, fill out a form with payment in the Welcome Center by **November 25th**. You may designate in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a blessing.

**Christmas Tree /Nativity Scene Set Up** - Volunteers are needed to setup our church Christmas tree, Wednesday, **December 4<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 am, (lights only) and to add ornaments Wednesday, **December 11<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 am. We will take it down Wednesday, **January 8<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 am. Contact Ron Kempf for more information.

**Christmas Gifts for Good Shepherd Staff and Children** - Christmas is a time for gift giving. We celebrate the greatest gift, the gift of God's Son to be our Savior and give gifts to others as a reflection of his love. 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 offer a special gift for this purpose. 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 8<sup>th</sup>**, or use this QR code. A door offering will also be received after each service **November 30/ December 1** for this purpose.



**The Samaritan Giving Tree** is in the Welcome Center until Thanksgiving. The Ladies League is helping to make Christmas brighter for residents at the Samaritan Home. To participate, take a tag, sign your name on the sheet on the Welcome Center counter, buy the gift, & return the Wrapped gift with the tag attached under the tree by the weekend of **November 30/December 1**. If any ladies are attending Advent by Candlelight Tuesday, December 3, wrapped gifts can be brought then as well. Thank you !



**A Family 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 15th**. 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](mailto:kkapler@gslswb.org).

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>2</b> 6:00 pm Head & Heart Study 6:30 pm Women's Bible St. 6:30 pm Bible Information Class	<b>3</b> 6:00 pm Jesus Cares Worship 7:00 pm Advent By Candlelight	<b>4</b> 10:00 am Advent Worship 11:00 am Set up Christmas Tree  5:15 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:30 pm Adult Bells	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism 6:30 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	<b>6</b> 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Christmas for Kids 1:00 pm Concert Rehearsal <b>6:00 pm</b> Good Shepherd Christmas Choir Concert (note time)
<b>8</b> 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am Communion Worship 2:30 pm KML Band Concert	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm Pioneers Family Night 6:30 pm Bible Information Class	<b>10</b> 12 pm Bible Study Christmas Luncheon	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 10:00 am Advent Worship 11:00 am Decorate Christmas Tree 5:15 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:30 pm Adult Bells	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism 6:30 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:00 pm Shepherd Youth at the Bend	<b>13</b> 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Little Lambs Christmas Program 5:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm KML Christmas Choir Concert
<b>15</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 1:30 pm Children's Christmas Service 4:00 pm Children's Christmas Service	<b>16</b> 6:00 pm Head & Heart Study 6:30 pm Women's Bible St.	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Coordinating Council	<b>18</b> 8:00 am Newsletter Mailing 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 10:00 am Advent Worship 5:15 pm Advent Dinner 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:30 pm Adult Bells	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism 6:30 pm Men's Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	<b>20</b> 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	<b>21</b> 5:00 pm Communion Worship
<b>22</b> 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 am Communion Worship with Sunday School Christmas Presentation	<b>23</b> :	<b>24</b> 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Christmas Day Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00 pm Worship
<b>29</b> 8:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	<b>30</b> :	<b>31</b> 5:00 pm New Year's Eve Communion Worship				