



January Newsletter in the Year of Our Lord 2025

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

The Best Thing You Can Give

Parents want to give their children the very best. We want to give them fun toys and nice clothes. We want to help them stay active and drive them to sports. We want to read with them and help them grow their knowledge and understanding. We want them to be healthy by giving them good food.

All these things are great, but God tells us that there is something even better we can give. **"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord," Ephesians 6:4.**

Parents can do nothing better than to give their children the training and instruction of the Lord. The purpose of this is not just so they can know what is right and wrong, but so they can know how their Lord and Savior loves them and how he wants them to be with him forever. Jesus says, **"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent," John 17:3.**

When you bring your children to worship and Sunday School, when you take time for family devotions and prayer, when you talk about God's Word as you drive to basketball practice or sit down to eat, you are giving your children something that will last forever. These things are far better than anything else you can give them.

Now that Christmas is over, don't stop giving your children gifts. Continue to give them the best thing you can: the love of Jesus who was born to be their Savior and gave his life up to forgive their sins and came back to life to give them a place in Heaven.

Pastor Mueller

Worship our Lord with Joy!

Saturdays at 5:00 pm; Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am.
Sunday School and Bible Study at 9:15 am.

Jesus Cares Worship are held the first Tuesday of each month at Good Shepherd at 6:00 pm. Our next service is **January 7th**. Invite a friend with special needs and attend these blessed services with them.

CHRISTMAS AT GOOD SHEPHERD!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 pm & 9:00 pm

Enjoy Christmas with special singing, musical groups, and candlelight. At the end of the service we put out all the lights except the Christmas tree, and sing "Silent Night" by candlelight as we each hold our own lit candles.

Christmas Day Festival Service
Wednesday, December 25th at 9:00 am

New Year's Eve Communion Worship
Tuesday, December 31st at 5:00 pm

Holiday weekend worship schedule - As you come for special holiday worship services, make sure not to miss out on our regular weekend worship opportunities: Saturday, **December 28th** at 5:00 pm, and Sunday, **December 29th** at 8:00 & 10:30 am.

Please remember to follow through on your first-fruit giving plan for regular and special services as a grateful act of worship, and to meet the ongoing needs of our ministry plan.

Ministry Events

Ladies League meets in January Tuesday, **January 7th** at 9:30 am & 7:00 pm. All ladies are invited to attend!



Opportunities to Grow through the Word

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES - 9:15 am

Register for Bible studies using this QR code

“From Persecution to Power: God's Hidden Hand in History” – Sunday Bible study resumes on **January 5th** at 9:15 am.



Join us this new year for a six-lesson study that dives into the tumultuous early centuries of Christianity as a small group of Jesus' followers became the religion of an empire. Discover the courage of the early church with Eusebius, witness the rise of Christianity under Constantine, and unpack the pivotal Council at Nicaea. Consider the origins of the papacy, learn about the inspiring legacies of martyrs and monks, and see how Rome created an Imperial Church. Join us as we uncover the hidden hand of God in history and his unchanging faithfulness today. (Sundays Jan. 5-Feb. 9, 2025)

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 **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.

Sunday School is a great way to teach your children the wonderful stories of the Bible. Bring your PreK - 7th grade children to Sunday School so they can grow in their faith. Sunday School resumes **January 5 at 9:15 am**.

Weekday Bible Studies

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. 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.

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 or use the Bible study QR code on this page, and indicate how many of your children need childcare. Also, indicate if you are willing to help set up and serve.

KML Percussion Concert is Saturday, **January 11th** at 6:30 pm at the KML Performing Arts Center. All are invited.



A Gym Play Day is set for Saturday, **January 25th** and February 22nd from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Come bring the kids for some indoor fun and fellowship, including our own bounce house. Invite your friends!

Care Packages – Our Shepherd Youth are preparing care packages for college students in January. Please bring hot chocolate, popcorn, granola bars, pens, post it notes, candy, ramen, little Debbie's, mini Pringles cans, etc. to the designated box in the Fellowship Hall.

Shepherd Youth Bowling and Care Package Assembly are set for Sunday, **January 26th**.

Food Drive – Through the end of January we are collecting non perishable goods for our married seminary student food drive. Bring items to designated bins in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks!



Men of his Word Conference – Saturday, **February 8th**, at the Oshkosh Convention Center. Theme – **Built to Serve**. Keynote speaker – Seminary president Earl Treptow. All men and teens are invited! Music by Koine. Contact Pastor Hein for carpool planning. To learn more about topics or to register online, go to www.menofhisword.org.

Service and Fellowship Opportunities

Christmas Tree Take Down - Volunteers are needed to take down our church Christmas tree, Wednesday, **January 8th** at 10:00 am. Contact Ron Kempf for more information. Thanks to all our volunteers who have helped beautify our church for Christmas!

Head & Heart Bible Study & Fellowship for ages 18-30 at Pastor Schlicht's home, 6:00-8:00 pm. Mondays twice a month, the first & third Mondays. Next study is **January 6th**. 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 Class - "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: **January 6 & 20** in the Fellowship Hall. All women invited.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class - Held at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall resuming **January 8th**. Our topic - "The Gospel of Mark: Your Kingdom Come." Everyone is welcome to attend. Led by 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!

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** and **February 22nd** from 9-11 am. Free childcare will be provided in the gym at our gym play-day for 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.



Are you looking for opportunities to serve God and others? We have some upcoming events where we could use your spiritual gifts and abilities. Please sign up to partner with us and help all of our ministries be successful. We are looking for those who are interested in helping to clean our church, serve at events like Lenten Dinners, Easter for Kids and more. Please use this QR code or fill out a blue volunteer sheet in the Welcome Center.



2025 Offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Please don't use new envelopes until 2025.

Thanks to our coordinator Maria Reis, and the many wonderful volunteers who helped make Christmas for Kids a wonderful success. 116 children from our church and community were enrolled. Now we are following up with unchurched families to invite them to events at Good Shepherd. **Easter for Kids** is Saturday, **April 12th**.

Thanks! - The faculty and staff of Good Shepherd thank you for your Christmas cards, gifts and words of encouragement during this Christmas season. God's blessings to all of you in the New Year!



Facility Expansion Update - Due to our growing school enrollment our primary needs are for additional classrooms, large and small meeting areas, parking and physical/gym space. Our theme and mission is **"Building Connections to Share Jesus."** Extra promise sheets and envelopes are available in the Welcome Center. We rejoice that we have received \$2,592,000 so far in three year commitments. The estimated project cost is \$5.9 million. Our Building Committee and Finance Teams are forwarding recommendations to the Coordinating Council for a facility expansion plan. If approved, these proposals will be brought to our voters for approval at special **Voters' Assembly Sunday, January 5th at 11:40 am**. We are preparing a detailed plan update to share with our church family. Special gifts in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special blessing are welcome. Keep our expansion plans in your prayers as we continue to advance our plans!

Benefits include:

- Conversion of gym brings net increase of 7 classrooms, plus one large meeting space
- New double sized gym
- Additional parking
- Area near gym with bathrooms, changing rooms, gym storage and concessions.

Attention, Incoming 3K, 4K, and 5K students (25/26)!

A bouncy house, snacks, and school information will be available at the 3K, 4K, 5K Good Shepherd School Kick Start Open House on Saturday, **February 8**, from 9:00-11:00. Drop in anytime! Register using this QR code.



Our Mission in Christ

Compelled by the love of our Good Shepherd,
we gather together around God's Word to

WORSHIP our Lord with joy,

GROW spiritually,

SERVE God and others in love,

SHARE the good news of Jesus!



*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

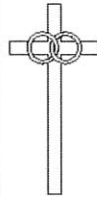
777 Indiana Avenue, West Bend, WI 53095

Phone: 262-334-7881

www.goodshepherdwels.org

Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran—West Bend, WI

Good Shepherd Marriage Enrichment Night will be held on Valentine's Day this year, February **14th** from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. We have reserved a beautiful venue, Cedar Lodge, to enjoy a fabulous dinner together, fellowship and marriage enrichment. Our guest presenter is Pastor Paul Koester. Putting in time to strengthen your relationship with your spouse is time well spent. Look for sign-ups soon. Invite your friends! Would you like to be part of the team planning a fabulous meal for this event? Please contact Pastor Hein.



Weather Updates - Check out Fox News Channel 6 for any Good Shepherd delays or cancellations. These will also be posted on our webpage at www.goodshepherdwels.org.

Special Voters' Assembly Sunday, January 5th at 11:40 am to consider facility expansion proposals from our Building Committee and to issue several teacher calls.

Online Giving is available at our website under "offerings". All designations in your packet are also available online. Special giving opportunities are for Christmas and New Year's Eve, as well as Building Connections.

Time of Grace Devotions - www.timeofgrace.net

WELS devotions - wels.net/serving-you/devotions

Attend a WELS church elsewhere or watch our services online? You can log your attendance on our website www.goodshepherdwels.org/forms

Coordinating Council Members

Paul Ihlenfeldt—President

Ken Mantz—Vice-President

Dan Herriges—Secretary

Korey Johnson—Financial Officer

Peter Kapler—Worship Ministry Chairman

Keaton Reis—School Ministry Chairman

Adam Retzlaff—Support Ministry Chairman

Todd Biesterfeld—Outreach Ministry Chairman

Tom Getka—Adult Nurture Ministry Chairman

Kurt Kolander—Family Nurture Ministry Chairman

Joyful Giving in 2025

Dear Member of our Good Shepherd Family,

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops." (Proverbs 3:9) Giving offerings is not a matter of "keeping the lights on" at church or filling a budget. Offerings are part of your worship. They are a tangible way we express our thanks to God for all that he has done for us. It also demonstrates our trust in him to provide for our future needs. As we approach the New Year, we ask you to assess your income and give a percentage that reflects the physical and spiritual blessings God has given you. Consider also that your offering helps us take hold of the great ministry opportunities God is placing before us here at Good Shepherd and the Lord's work elsewhere.

We encourage each member to develop a giving plan for 2025 (See below for a simple option.). God's Word says, *"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income."* (1 Corinthians 16:2) Having a plan doesn't have to be complicated. It helps you prioritize this aspect of your worship by setting aside money for the Lord and usually leads to better management of your finances as a whole. On the back of this sheet you'll find specific instructions for giving here at Good Shepherd. Thank you for your gifts of love!

Pastor Peter Schlicht

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

A Personal Giving Plan for 2025

Annual income or combined income is \$ _____

The percentage I want to give to the Lord as an act of worship is _____%

Multiply income by percentage to find your yearly giving total.

(eg. If you make \$50,000 and you wish to give 10 percent: $50,000/0.10 = \$5,000$ in annual giving.)

My yearly giving plan total is \$ _____

Divide this total by 52 weeks or 12 months to determine your weekly or monthly offering.

My weekly or monthly contribution during 2025 is \$ _____

Special gifts I choose to offer over and above this weekly plan.

WELS Missions \$ _____ Kettle Moraine Lutheran \$ _____

Debt Retirement \$ _____ Building Connections \$ _____

Other Ministries, Little Lambs, etc. \$ _____

Giving Instructions

Online Giving

A free online giving service is available. Click on the “Offering” button on our website www.goodshepherdwels.org to take you to Vanco Services’ secure website. There you can create a personal profile and a plan to give an offering from your checking or savings account. You can offer a one-time or regularly scheduled gift. The site gives you all the designation options available in our envelope packets. You may still participate in the gathering of the offering by writing “Simply Giving” on your envelope.

Offering Envelopes We also invite you to use offering envelopes. These are available in the church narthex. Using envelopes is recommended over simply putting cash in the plate because it allows for tracking of giving for tax benefit purposes and for your own personal stewardship review. It also includes options for specific designations. Finally, placing a check or cash in an envelope each week is, in and of itself, a special way to prepare your heart for worship.

Special Gifts offered in memory of a loved one, or in honor of an anniversary, marriage, or other occasion will be listed in the monthly newsletter. Please include that request with the specific details when you offer your gift. For example: \$50 given for “Kid’s Programs” in memory of John Smith by Pete and Jane Smith.

Charitable Contributions – Cash contributions cannot be claimed for a tax deduction unless they are supported by a receipt or statement from a qualifying organization. Contributions can be made by check and claimed without a receipt unless any single contribution is \$250 or more. For gifts to your home church, it is always best to use your offering envelopes. For gifts to other organizations, contribute by check, and if it is \$250 or more, require a receipt or statement.

WELS Planned Giving Assistance – Contact Mr. Scott Wagner, from the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving, at 605-231-7402 to set up charitable giving plans through your estate, to maximize tax advantages for charitable giving, and enable you to continue supporting the Lord’s work even when you are in heaven. He can meet with you at no charge. Another option is Mr. Paul Snamiska, who serves as the KML Estate Plan/Deferred Gift Counselor, at 262- 677-4051.

IRA Direct Giving – If you are over 70 ½ you can direct IRA distributions to our church and not be taxed for the proceeds. For more details on this tax wise way of giving, contact Mr. Jim Sievert.

Good Shepherd Church Calendar

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2 School Resumes – Good Shepherd 6:30 pm Griefshare 7:00 pm Men's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	3 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	4 5:00 pm Worship
5 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	6 6:00 pm Head & Heart Study 6:30 pm Women's Bible St. 6:30 pm Bible Information Cl.	7 9:30 am Ladies League 6:00 pm Jesus Cares Worship 7:00 pm Ladies League	8 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 10:00 am Take down Christmas tree 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism	9 6:30 pm Griefshare 7:00 pm Men's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	10 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	11 8:00 am Congregational Bible Breakfast 5:00 pm Communion Worship 6:30 pm KML Percussion Concert
12 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Bible Study & Sunday School/ Youth Morning 10:30 am Communion Worship	13 6:00 pm Pioneers 6:30 pm Bible Information Cl.	14	15 8:00 am Newsletter Mailing 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism 6:30 pm Handbell Choir 6:30 pm GOAL	16 6:30 pm Griefshare 7:00 pm Men's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	17 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	18 5:00 pm Worship Service
19 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	20 6:00 pm Head & Heart Study 6:00 pm Little Lambs Committee 6:30 pm Women's Bible St. 6:30 pm Bible Information Cl.	21 6:30 pm Coordinating Council	22 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	23 6:30 pm Griefshare 7:00 pm Men's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	24 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	25 9:00 am Shaped to Serve Workshop 9:00 am Gym Playday 5:00 pm Communion Worship
26 8:00 am Communion Worship 9:15 am Family Bible Study 10:30 am Communion Worship Shepherd Youth Bowling	27 6:30 pm Bible Information Cl.	28	29 9:00 am Wed. Bible Study 6:30 pm Public Sch. Catechism 6:30 pm Handbell Choir	30 6:30 pm Griefshare 7:00 pm Men's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	31 8:00 am Women's Bible Study	