



February Newsletter The Year of Our Lord 2021

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

Speak, Lord! Your servant is listening.

The voices you listen to have a profound impact on your life. Countless voices compete for your attention, strung together in your digital life by the next post or link that demands your attention. Our work lives fill our inboxes with messages we need to respond to. Texts and messages from family and friends demand to be heard.

Where do you go to escape that noise? For many, it's a streaming service with multi-episode TV shows that you can binge watch. The cumulative effect is that we find it hard to focus on any one thing for any length of time.

All those voices fill our time in such a way that God's voice escapes our attention. How easily we take for granted that God speaks to us through the written Word! We don't find ourselves amazed that God would speak to us.

The context of the Lord calling to Samuel reveals God's amazing grace to Eli. 1 Samuel 3:2 tells us, In those days the word of God was rare. There were not many visions. The priest, Eli, who did not take God's Word seriously, was the direct recipient of a message from God. (2:27-36)

The Lord also sent a message to Eli in the way he chose to speak to Samuel. Would you expect a boy with young ears to confuse the Lord's words with the sound of Eli's voice? Each time Samuel disturbed Eli's sleep was a message intended for Eli, too.

The Lord also left Samuel with a chilling message for Eli, a message of judgment on Eli's family. So, when the word of the Lord was rare, the Lord sent three messages to Eli. Do you recognize God's grace? What did Eli deserve for his failure to listen? He deserved silence. Yet, the Lord spoke to him, loving words of warning.

So, then, what do we deserve for all the times we have failed to listen to the Lord? For all the times we don't want to hear God, but give our attention to the voice of temptation. A fearful silence. Yet he gives us the opposite of what we deserve. Not only does he speak. He speaks to reveal his love. God grant that we become listeners like Samuel.

In Christ,

Pastor John Paustian

Worship our Lord with joy!

Saturdays at 4:00* & 5:00 pm;

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 am

*At the 4:00 pm service masks are required for all and there is no congregational singing.

(Holy Communion is offered the 2nd and 4th weekends of the month)

Sunday School & Bible Study at 9:15 am

Join us for Lenten Worship!

Wednesdays at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm
February 17- March 24

Take a spiritual journey with Jesus to the cross and the empty tomb!

"Love So Amazing, So Divine"

February 17 "Love for the Heavenly Father"

February 24 "Love for the Holy Scriptures"

March 3 "Love for a loathsome traitor"

March 10 "Love for a pitiable coward"

March 17 "Love for an unjust judge"

March 24 "Love for a dying criminal"

Lenten Dinners will not be held this year due to Covid.

KML Sunday – The KML Touring Choir will perform their concert service at Good Shepherd Sunday, January 31st at 8:00 & 10:30 am. The Saturday services will follow the regular format. One special way to support the ministry of KML is through the KML Debt Reduction envelope in your packet or available as a designation for online giving.

Special Music – A WELS area contemporary group called "Unworthy" will play at our two Sunday services February 7th at 8:00 & 10:30 am. A freewill offering will be gathered to support their

music ministry. Invite your friends! Our regular worship services will be held Saturday, February 6th at 4:00 & 5:00 pm.

Personal Devotion – Your pastors are eager to meet with anyone personally for a devotion and the Lord's Supper at church or your home. Call the church office at 334-7881 and we will set up an appointment with you.

Opportunities to Grow through the Word

Weekday Bible Studies

Sunday Bible Studies at 9:15 am

"Revelation, The Distant Triumph Song"
The book of Revelation uses picture language to describe the end times in which we are living. We may deal with hardships, but in Christ, we win the victory. Come study this glorious vision of the future. Led by Pastor Robert Hein in the Fellowship Hall.

"Ecclesiastes: The Search For Meaning".
Since the Revelation Bible study will extend a few weeks beyond the original plan, this study will be extended with the theme: **Life to the Full—Living the Life that Is Really Life.** Led by Pastor John Paustian downstairs in the Commons area.

Sunday School - Sundays at 9:15 am. All children from Preschool through Grade 8 are invited to come and learn about Jesus and his love through Bible stories, crafts, games, songs, and fun activities.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class - We meet Wednesday mornings in church from 9:00-10:00 am. We are studying the life of Abraham; his trials and triumphs. Regardless of your age, come and join our active group. Led by Pastor Richard E. Lauersdorf.

Time Out For Mom's Friday Bible Study - Fridays from 8:00-9:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall and continuing on Fridays when school is in session. Child care is provided in the Parent's Room by moms through a child care exchange. Topic: The Chosen. Led by Marilyn Sievert.



Building "People" Connections Update – We are grateful that 217 families/individuals have promised \$795,346 towards our Building People Connections

campaign to reduce or eliminate our \$1.2 million expansion mortgage. \$374,623 has already been received. Please keep up with your pledged amounts. Building Connections envelopes are available in your envelope packet or in the narthex. Special gifts in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special blessing are welcome. Consider the ministry of Good Shepherd in your estate plans as well.

Our Quarterly Voters' Assembly will be held Tuesday, January 26th at 7:00 pm. A ministry and financial update will be provided. We will consider for discussion only new structure and bylaw proposals and vote on several bylaw changes already discussed at our October meeting. We will also consider for discussion only several wording changes to the constitution. We encourage all voting members to attend this important meeting!

At our January 10th Voters' Assembly our voters approved a proposal to call a third full time pastor to work with youth and young families. The next step is for our leaders to hold a precall meeting with our District President David Kolander February 2nd. Then a call meeting will be announced. We bring our call needs to our district president and he develops the call list for us. If someone has a name to recommend for the call list, send that name to Pastor Hein by February 9th. He will forward the name to our district president as he determines which names to include on the call list.

A Special Voters' Assembly is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 pm. We are putting this meeting date on the calendar, recognizing that the situation could change. If our voters approve the proposals at the January 26th Voters' Assembly that we can vote on bylaw changes at any voters' assembly, not just a quarterly one, then, we can vote on the bylaw changes at this February 23rd meeting. It is possible we may be able to issue a call for a pastor at this meeting as well. Stay tuned for updates.

A new hymnal education task force has been appointed by the Coordinating Council. They will study the benefits of the new hymnal and offer presentations to the congregation to help us determine if we wish to make use of this new worship tool which becomes available in December 2021.

Ministry Plan Update

We encourage all members of Good Shepherd to return their first fruits to the Lord as a joyful act of worship and an expression of gratitude to God for his priceless blessings. As a church, our regular offerings are presently meeting our ministry expenses. However, we have additional expenses in the new year. In the Bible, God encourages proportional giving; that is, based on your level of income. Consider what great things God has done for you, and then set your plan of grateful response. God's Word says, **"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops!"** Proverbs 3:9

Offering Statements - 2020 offering statements are available in the narthex. Take your copy home as a record of your giving plan. It also includes a letter of stewardship encouragement for 2021.

Action Plan Update – We continue to make progress on our action plan priorities. Updates are listed here.

- Initiate a congregation-wide member ministry effort helping God's people discover their strengths and linking them to service.

Update – Our stewardship Committee is meeting to develop a plan to achieve this goal.

- Develop a system to train and prepare church leaders and volunteers for service.

Update – We plan to make this a responsibility of our six boards in our new structure.

- Revise our church structure to increase involvement and ownership from all the members of our church family, male and female, young and old.

Update – A new structure was approved by our Coordinating Council and will be presented for discussion only at our January 26th Voters' Assembly.

- Expand web-based platforms for internal and external communication.

Update – We are making greater use of Facebook and our website to promote our activities and we are investigating how to Livestream our services.

- Offer excellence in worship, utilizing a variety of Christ-centered music styles and formats (traditional and contemporary).

Update- A new hymnal task force is reviewing the benefits of the new WELS hymnal and we plan to invite outside groups to play at Good Shepherd occasionally.

- Call a full-time person (pastor or staff minister) whose primary focus is on youth and younger families (ages 18 to 35) giving special encouragement to worship regularly, grow spiritually, and serve joyfully.

Update – Our voters approved a proposal to call a third pastor and our leaders our meeting with our district president for pre-call meetings.

- Increase the level of friendliness at Good Shepherd to provide a warm welcome to all who enter.
- Develop support groups (parenting, substance abuse, depression, grief etc.) for those dealing with similar spiritual, emotional, mental, or physical needs.
- Initiate a concentrated effort to connect and share the love of Jesus with inactive members and the unchurched.
- Knit Good Shepherd members together to celebrate Christian fellowship through study groups, social activities and service opportunities.

Update – Covid 19 restrictions present some present challenges for hosting fellowship events, but we continue to recruit greeters to offer everyone a warm welcome, and we held Christmas for Kids and a Pre-school/Kindergarten Open House through takeout events.

Special Events & Fellowship Opportunities

Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School's Drama Program is excited to announce this winter's musical production of **"Beauty & the Beast."** Dates: February 26 & 27 at 7:00 pm, and Sunday, February 28, 2:00 pm For viewing information go to www.kmlhs.org.

Men's Bible Breakfast will be held Saturday February 13th from 8:00-9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a delicious home cooked breakfast and a short Bible study on being a servant leader, led by Pastor Hein. For planning purposes, please signup in the narthex. We will practice social distancing and safe serving practices.

The next Dodge/Washington OWLS meeting will be Monday, January 25, 10:00 AM at Peace, Hartford. Our speaker is Sean Young, Director of WELS Joint Missions Operations, who will tell us about our Vietnam missions and progress on our new Seminary being established there. It will be an informative presentation. Everyone is welcome, not just members. There is a short business meeting after. There will be no potluck. Questions, call Pastor Scheele, 353-9838.

Marriage Enrichment Takeout Box – Due to Covid-19 we are not hosting our annual marriage enrichment night at Good Shepherd Valentines Day weekend. We do plan to reschedule it for a later date. However, we do encourage married couples to register for a marriage enrichment takeout box at www.goodshepherdwels.org. Deadline is January 29th. \$5 fee guarantees your reservation for planning purposes.

Boxes will be available for pickup at church beginning February 6th. The kit includes conversation starters and relationship builders, a marriage booklet entitled "Stronger Together", links to Christian music and devotions, coupon, and some sweet treats. It's a great way to strengthen your relationship with your spouse.

Our Congregational Purpose

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 eter-
nal life and they
shall never per-
ish.*

*No one can
snatch them out
of my hand.*

**Good Shepherd Evangelical
Lutheran Church & School**

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www.goodshepherdwels.org

Facebook: Good Shepherd Lutheran—West Bend, WI

Important WI Parental Choice Notice

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is excited to participate in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)! For students selected by the state, families receive a voucher that pays their students' tuition in full. Currently over 38 families participate. The open application period for the statewide Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) for the 2021-2022 school year begins February 3 and runs through April 20, 2021. Is your family eligible for the WPCP? It is a tremendous blessing which can pay for your child's education all through elementary and high school! Go to <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs/student-applications> or contact the school office for more information.

If you missed our Preschool 3, 4 and Kindergarten Open House event January 16th, we can still connect with you personally to give you a tour and tell you more about our programs for Preschool and Kindergarten. Call the school office at 334-7881 for registration information.

Little Lambs Childcare is hiring full and part time teachers to join our team! Free childcare for employees during their shift; WELS or ELS members. Please contact Cheryl Henckel to learn more at 262-338-1764.

Website - Check out our church/school website at www.goodshepherdwels.org for ministry updates and online calendar. Like us and share events on Facebook at Good Shepherd, West Bend.

Special Gifts

\$1,200 in memory of Irene Butzlaff from family and friends for Good Shepherd General Fund

\$75 in memory of Irene Butzlaff from Serigraph, Inc. for Building Connections

\$50 in memory of Gerald Henckel from his family for Kid's Programs

\$100 in memory of Ralph Kohlwey from Jerry & Arlene Prochnow for the Memorial Fund

\$30 in memory of Anita Eulert from Mark & Maribeth Frank for the Memorial Fund

\$165 in memory of Norma Kaun from family for General Fund

\$2,080 in memory of Florence Enderle from family and friends for Building Connections, \$50 for Good Shepherd School; \$75 for Handbell Choir