

VOL. 29 ISSUE 2 · FEBRUARY 2024

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

3745 Shoreline Drive, Wayzata MN 55391

www.goodshepherdmn.org

Monday Funday(s)!

What better way to spend a Monday off from school than with your friends from church?! Our Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries Ally Reitz planned two fun days off for our youth! On January 15th, kids enjoyed games, crafts and pizza at church and then the following Monday had a pool party at Great Wolf Lodge!



Worship Schedule

February 4th - Praise and Worship

Worship at 10 am

In Person or Online

Sermon Series: Star of Wonder - Strength

February 7th - Praise and Worship

Worship at 6:30pm

In Person

Sermon Series: Star of Wonder - Strength

February 11th - Contemporary Service

Worship at 10 am

In Person or Online

Sermon Series: Star of Wonder

February 14th - Ash Wednesday

Worship at 6:30pm

In Person

February 18th - Traditional Service

Worship at 10 am

In Person or Online

Sermon Series: Wrestling With God

February 21st - Lenten Service

Worship at 6:30 pm

In Person or Online

Sermon: Community Speaker

February 21st - Lenten Service

Worship at 6:30 pm

In Person or Online

Sermon: Community Speaker

February 25th- Gospel Service

Worship at 10 am

In Person or Online

Sermon: Wrestling with God

February 28th- Lenten Service

Worship at 6:30 pm

In Person or Online

Sermon: Community Speaker

Fellowship Event: Bingo Night

Join us for Bingo Night!

Saturday, February 24th, 2024

Doors open at 6:30 pm, games start at 7 pm. We will be playing 10 games of bingo!

All ages invited!

Pop, beer, wine and snacks will be provided-free will donation.

All proceeds will go to the Westonka Foodshelf. Guests are encouraged to also bring a canned or boxed food item to donate.

\$15/first card pack (10 games), \$5/each additional card pack.

Cards can be bought in the church office or online using the link below or on the church website.

<https://goodshepherdmn.breezechms.com/form/ce766a615836>

Prizes are gift cards to local restaurants!



Ash Wednesday
February 14th, 2024

The 40 Day Journey of Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 14th. Join us for a special Ash Wednesday service featuring hymns, a special message, and the imposition of the Ashes.

Our journey through Lent this year will feature a special Lenten Wednesday Worship featuring guest speakers from our community, special music and Communion.

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Cynthia Bremer

Vice President: Blake Smith

Secretary: Emily Graff

Treasurer: Linda Synder

Christian Ed: Maggie Stewart

Evangelism: Tera White

Fellowship: Jeannie Adair and Sheri Smith

Finance: James Collins

Mutual Ministry: Jo Mueller

Property: Spencer Arne

Service Ministry: Katy Flom

Stewardship: Amy Velsor

Women's Ministry: Cheryl Morrissey

Worship & Music: Janet Linkert

Youth: Betsy Lindgren & Becky Hall

We thank these members for their time, their energy, their effort, their skills, their ideas and insights, and their leadership in serving our congregation in these council positions in this upcoming year!

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



High School Ski Trip February 15th-18th

Calling all 8th to 12th graders! Prepare to hit the slopes and create lasting memories on our Ski Trip to Lutsen. Whether you're a seasoned pro or hitting the slopes for the first time, this trip promises fun, faith, and the breathtaking beauty of Minnesota's North Shore. Get ready for four days of winter wonderland fun!



Camp Christikon June 22nd-30th

Calling all current 5th to 7th graders! Our summer adventure awaits, and we're heading to Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp in Montana. During the week, you'll enjoy God's incredible Creation in the Rocky Mountains as you live at camp with your campers and counselors. Each day will feature great food, fun games, opportunities to grow in faith, an overnight backpack excursion in the mountains, and more! Registration link on the homepage of our church website!



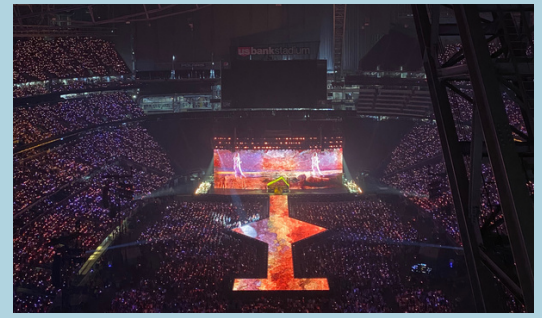
ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 13th-21st

This summer our current 8th to 12th graders are invited to join us as we go to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Join tens of thousands of young people from our Lutheran Church across the country for a transformative week of service, worship, fun, and exploration. Each day our youth will do mission-trip style service projects around the city and each evening will gather with 30,000+ other ELCA high school students at the Superdome.

The cost for this trip will be \$650 with fundraising opportunities & scholarships available. Registration link on the homepage of our church website!

PASTOR'S CORNER: ERAS

BY PASTOR SARAH JOHANSON



I have been a Taylor Swift fan for most of my life. Her debut album came out when I was in third grade, and I have learned every word to every song off of every album since. When she announced her Eras Tour, I braved the Ticketmaster chaos and secured two nosebleed tickets to see her perform at US Bank stadium with my college bestie. We scream sang every song from every era of her music- some country, some pop, some folk inspired. Two days after the concert, with a halfway lost voice, I interviewed at here Good Shepherd.

On Monday, January 29th Pastor Derek, Emily Graff, Ally Reitz, Janet Jans, and I met at Pastor Derek's house for our first semi-annual Good Shepherd Staff Retreat. After a year of big transitions in 2023, we wanted to be intentional about setting intentions and hopes for the new calendar year and this new era of Good Shepherd. Like Taylor Swift, Good Shepherd has had many eras throughout its life- some of growth, some of decline, some challenging, some harmonious. In the last few years, we have been in an era of transitions, both with COVID changes and pastoral transitions. As we sat down as a staff to look forward into this new year at Shepherd, we felt led to our 'living into the mission statement era'- both inside and outside the church's walls. What does it mean for us to be truly "Led by God to love our community?" We're hoping to explore what this looks like through service, fellowship, and worship together this year, and are excited to get started with some new service opportunities like The Neighborhood Food Project this month.

God has been with us through every era of our church and will be with us in the years and eras to come. I pray that this new year brings us deeper into relationship with one another and into service in our community!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our 2023 church budget was \$521,651.51. Actual expenses for 2023 came in at \$505,428.68.

Total income for 2023 in the form of offerings, gifts, and rent from Shoreline Childcare came in at \$473,299.12. Income finished at 90.73% of our projected expenses and 93.64% of our actual expenses.

In January our Church Council met to approve the 2024 budget which was approved by our congregation at the January 28th Annual Meeting.

In 2024 our church budget for expenses and income is \$512,000 which represents a 1.85% decrease from our 2023 overall budget and a 1.3% increase from our actual expenses in 2023.

As we enter this new year we are thankful for your offerings and gifts as they make up the majority of our income which pays for the ministry of Good Shepherd.

Giving Statements

Giving statements for 2023 will be emailed during the first week of February.

If you would like a printed and mailed copy of your giving statement, please contact Emily or Pastor Derek and we will send them.

February Birthday Wishes to...

- 1: Anders Nerheim, Abby Larkin
- 2: Chris Christenson, Bethany Butler, Marnie Graff
- 3: Ron Heath, Dana Byers
- 5: Greg Dahl, Michael Dreyer
- 6: Grace Bowe, Ava Bolles, Sydney Bowe, Hailey Salwei
- 7: Alex Janes, Inga Smith, Gale Menger, Kristin Lee, Michelle Wood, Mac Harmer, Melinda Brown, Evan Dahl
- 8: Brody Larson, Brendan Dreyer, Ian Erickson, Blaze Vicknair
- 9: Jeannine Adair
- 10: Rene LaFortune, Melissa Reid, Gabriel Puskarich
- 11: Jamie Gjellstad, Robert Davis, Andrew Latzke
- 12: Carter Umbehoeker, Rod Burriss
- 13: Chad Penner, Stella Nagel, Logan Kevitt, Lori Falness
- 14: Kameron Oelschlager, Brian Burriss
- 15: Dorothy Ritz
- 16: Collin Nelson, Micah Boyce, Anna Jakubik, Spencer Arne
- 17: Michele Frahm, Jackson Stewart, Connor Esposito, Bryan Gorman, Lyric Askerud
- 18: Jeff Boser, Gabrielle LaFortune, Laurie Johnson, Alexandria Knutson
- 19: Liam Hall, Jim Matthews
- 20: Eric Boser, Mark Carlson
- 21: Lisa Matson, Curt Stacey
- 22: Terri Esposito
- 23: Ardell Gilb, Loren Davis, Sydney Amerman
- 24: Aletta Askerud, Kyle Host, Kellan Smith, Dexter Noess
- 25: Cassie Taylor, Sarah Kasper, Karen Morgan, Jeff Garthwait
- 26: Randy Lee, Jodi Garthwait
- 27: Jerry Klitzka, Lori Weltzin
- 28: Brody Helms, Kathy Hall
- 29: Harolyn Salwei

Happy Anniversary!

- 14: Steve and Cindi Shannon... 35 Years!
15: Todd and Mysti Courneya... 27 Years!

Prayers For...

Those with Dementia, Alzheimer's, and Aging Issues

- Missy Poikonen's father
- Cindi Shannon
- Sara Schwartz's father

Those with Parkinson's Disease

- Dale Mueller's mother Lucia
- Ally Reitz's godmother Becky
- Erik Saxvik

Those with On-Going Health Concerns

- Rachel Reid
- Jo/Dale Mueller's brother-in-law, Garry
- Jean Gimmestad's son John
- Holly Thumann's mother Karen
- Spencer Helms' sister Allison
- George Linkert's mother
- Terri Esposito's niece Laura Devine
- Michelle Wood's mother Sally
- Joyce Jones

Those Living with Cancer

- Jo Mueller's friend Leann
- Jo Mueller's sister-in-law Ann
- Dale Mueller's father Harlan
- Jo Mueller's mother Lois
- Janet Linkert's friend, Walt
- Margaret Holste's friend, Pete
- Patty Berkland's sister Carol
- John Gulbrandson

Those who care for loved ones who are sick, homebound, hospitalized, or in nursing care.

Those battling depression, anxiety, mental illness, or addiction in own lives, life of loved one

Those Grieving the Death of Loved One

- Keith Cook & his family grieving the death of Karen Cook
- Brad and Janet Jans & their family grieving the death of Brad's mother Karen Jans



Did you know we added additional bells to our bell choir because it is grown so much this year?



Souper Bowl of Caring **FUNDRAISER FOR THE WESTONKA FOODSHELF**

The annual Souper Bowl of Caring has been transforming the time around Super Bowl Sunday into a nationwide celebration of giving and serving. During our 17 years of participation, we have collected over \$13,000. All money we've collected has been donated to the Westonka Food Shelf. No matter what football team any of us are rooting for, we can all get on the team fighting to beat hunger!

Before the Super Bowl snacking and celebrating begins, come to our worship service and fill the soup kettles with cash or check donations on Sunday, February 11, 2024! Or mail in a donation -- we'll collect through Easter Sunday .

NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PROJECT INFORMATION

We are so excited to be partnering with WeCAN (Western Communities Action Network) with their new initiative 'The Neighborhood Food Project'. The Neighborhood Food Project started in Ashland Oregon as a way to better support people in the community who are in need of non-perishable food and personal care items. As partners in the project, we are asked to fill green tote bags with food and personal care items each month. Once a month, we will bring in our full bags to WeCAN and exchange them for empty bags to fill for the next month. This system allows organizations like WeCAN to receive consistent support from area churches and organizations and help stock their shelves with some of their most needed items.

During this year's Super Bowl of Caring, we will be collecting money for the Food Shelf and also starting our first collection for Neighborhood Food Project items- focusing on the most needed personal care items (though food donations are also welcome). After that, we hope to have different church groups sign up to take charge of filling the bags each month. More information to come for sign-ups! Thank you to Service Committee leader Katy Flom for all of her hard work in making this new partnership possible. Let's fill some bags!



Call for Volunteers!

Do you have an extra hour or two on Wednesday afternoons/evenings to help with our Wednesday meals? We are always looking for help to prep, serve and cleanup! Chat with Pastor Derek for more info!

JANUARY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING RECAP

Thursday, January 18th, 2024

Present: Cynthia Bremer, Blake Smith, James Collins, Maggie Stewart, Tera White, Janet Linkert, Cheryl Morrissey, Jo Mueller, Amy Velsor, Emily Graff, Pastor Sarah Johanson, Pastor Derek Tronsgard.

President Cynthia Bremer called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Pastor Derek led the group in prayer to begin the meeting.

STRATEGY SESSION: Pastor Derek and James Collins led a discussion on the 2023 End of Year Financials and the proposed 2024 Budget. The Financial Team- Pastor Derek, Cynthia Bremer, Blake Smith, Kathy Hanson, Linda Synder and James Collins met to review the expenses and income from 2023 to build the budget on. A discussion around congregation giving resulted in the decision that we need to better educate members on why we give to the church and this will be a focus of the 2024 stewardship campaign as well as built into new member classes. The 2024 budget was presented for approval to be brought to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Tera White made a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2024, Amy Velsor seconded. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Blake Smith moved to approve the minutes as written. Janet Linkert seconded, motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: James Collins reported our 2023 church budget was \$521,651.51. Actual expenses for 2023 came in at \$505,428.68. Total income for 2023 in the form of offerings, gifts, and rent from Shoreline Childcare came in at \$473,299.12. Income finished at 90.73% of our projected expenses and 93.64% of our actual expenses. Maggie Stewart made a motion to approve the financial report, Janet Linkert seconded and motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WORSHIP AND MUSIC – Janet Linkert: Christmas Eve services were wonderful again this year and very well attended. A special thanks to everyone who decorated, helped with the music, ushered, greeted, and made our Christmas Eve services possible.

We just kicked off our Epiphany Sermon Series "Star of Wonder". During the first worship back from Christmas break congregants were encouraged to take a "Star Word" and also leave one for the congregation to be displayed. Pastor Derek and Pastor Sarah both took the stars given by the congregation to choose themes for this sermon series. Lent begins on February 14th with Ash Wednesday. We plan to do special Lenten Evening services with the Holden Evening Prayer and special Lent messages. More information to come soon.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Megan Cegla, Maggie Stewart: We hosted a Monday Funday for elementary kids on MLK Day and are looking forward to a family day at Great Wolf Lodge later this month on a school release day.

Ally continues to lead weekly Kids Club during Sunday and Wednesday services and 5/6 Connect on Wednesday evenings. Please see the Youth Ministry update for confirmation updates. Ally Reitz finished her last round of ELCA seminary classes in December and plans to continue her path towards ordination in the ELCA this coming fall by completing her Clinical Pastoral Education and internship. With that, Ally will finish out the summer of 2024 as our Director of Children's Ministry before moving on towards ordination. At this time we plan to hire a half-time Children's Minister to work with our Pre-K - 6th grade students beginning the Fall of 2024 when Ally leaves.

YOUTH MINISTRY – Becky Hall, Betsy Lindgren: Our Lutsen ski trip is almost full! We currently have around twenty youth and several parent chaperones joining us for the trip. Registration is now open for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans (8th-12th grade) and Camp Christikon (5th-7th grade) for this summer. A generous donor from our congregation pledged \$10,000 towards our Youth Gathering Trip with the hopes of getting as many high school youth as we can on this trip. This will lower the cost of the trip to families significantly. Pastor Sarah met with confirmation mentors in early January to check in about how the year is going, and we are hopeful to engage students with more hands-on activities and service opportunities in the coming months. We plan to host our annual Rib Fest Fundraiser once again this Spring. This year we plan to smoke all of the ribs on a giant smoker in the parking lot, much like we did for Pastor Loren's retirement party.

EVANGELISM – Tera White: New member classes are happening in January and February. We have six families who have confirmed their interest in joining our congregation this winter and we hope to add several more from our list of regular visitors.

FELLOWSHIP – Jeannine Adair, Sheri Smith: Our annual Bingo Night is scheduled for February 24th here at Good Shepherd. Like in previous years it will be both a Fellowship Night and a fundraiser for the Westonka Food Shelf. We hope any and all can attend!

SERVICE MINISTRY – Katy Flom: Katy Flom has been in conversation with WeCAN regarding Good Shepherd's involvement in "The Neighborhood Food Project." The new initiative would ask Good Shepherd and other churches and organizations to fill bags of pantry food and household items each month to help bring in consistent donations to WeCAN. We are hopeful to get involved with this project soon! Service Ministry will look to do more planning for this year's service opportunities in the coming weeks.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY – Cheryl Morrissey: With funds raised from the cheesecake sale and previous fundraisers, the committee has already purchased 120 glasses to be used for serving water and lemonade at funeral luncheons. No decision has been made for the remaining funds raised. The items being considered are new silverware and additional padded folding chairs for events held in the Fellowship Hall.

MUTUAL MINISTRY – Jo Mueller: Our church staff is having a visioning/planning retreat on Monday, January 29th The Minneapolis Synod Assembly is coming up in May. Pastor Derek and Pastor Sarah plan to attend and we're looking for lay members from the congregation who may be interested. This year's assembly is noteworthy as a new bishop will be elected. Jo Mueller wants to continue to encourage our pastors and staff to take use of the continuing education funds available to them each year.

PROPERTY – Pastor Derek reported for property. Spencer Arne has agreed to serve on the next Church Council to be elected at our Annual Meeting as our property chair. Our Thursday morning group continues to do wonderful work around our congregation. A huge thanks to them for all that they do. Work on our new digital sign project continues. We plan to go before the City of Orono planning commission in the next 1-2 months for our variance permit. We have finalized on a design and bid by AIM Electronics.

Plans are underway for steps leading up to our Peace Garden from the parking lot. Thanks to a generous donation several years ago we have \$30,000 earmarked for this project. We hope to begin this project this spring/summer. After we complete the Digital Sign project we will turn our attention to the completion of the brick repair in the Sanctuary. At this time we have \$41,000 designated for this project.

STEWARDSHIP – Amy Velsor: We plan to have a stewardship strategy meeting soon (late winter / early spring) to discuss our stewardship strategy for 2024. Goals of 2024 stewardship include ways to thank our regular and faithful givers throughout the year, strategies to encourage new and younger families to share their gifts with the congregation, and other financial development strategies to help us continue our ministries to our church and community.

Blake Smith made a motion to approve committee reports, Cheryl Morrissey seconded. Motion carried.

Cheryl Morrissey made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Amy Velsor seconded. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted by Emily Graff, Council Secretary.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
3745 Shoreline Drive
Wayzata, MN 55391-9784

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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