



The Good Shepherd's Voice

May, 2024

Newsletter from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School



Short Stories that
Speak Volumes
for Our Lives

Build on Solid Rock

Jesus said, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock" (Matthew 7:24,25).

If you had to evacuate your home because of rising water following severe storms, imagine how difficult it would be to return and assess the damage: muddy floors, moldy walls, and worldly possessions headed for a dumpster. It would be emotionally devastating to observe the physical destruction that the waters caused.

Jesus told a story about building on a location to avoid destruction. He compared a wise builder and a foolish one. The foolish builder built his house on a nice sandy stretch by the water. It was a beautiful place to live until the storm hit.

There was no defense against the rising waters—a complete loss (maybe even a loss of life!). In contrast, there was a wise builder. He built his house in the hills; he spent the extra time and money to firmly position it on solid rock. It was worth it. The building remained high above the floodwaters and stood strong against the wind.

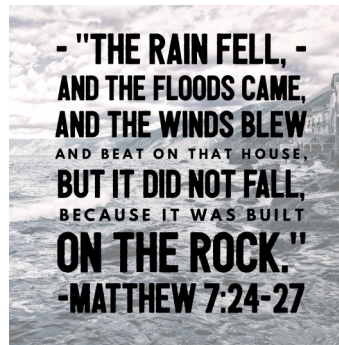
Jesus' short story speaks volumes for our lives. He wants us to think carefully about the foundation on which we build our lives. It needs to be strong when life's storms strike. When the company is downsized, we want the strength to keep a posi-

tive outlook. When conflict loosens family ties, we want tight knots to hold it together. When we've really messed up, the guilt must not sweep us away. When bad news comes, there needs to be rock-like endurance to get us through.

There's much advice today about successfully building our lives: build up a network of reliable family and friends, develop more of a positive attitude, get different forms of insurance for rainy days, and pursue proven avenues of achievement. But in the end, they're all "sand foundations." The storms that overwhelm human hearts and hopes are far too violent. We need something stronger to build on.

Jesus tells us to build our lives and futures on the solid rock of his word. It takes some time and effort to build that way, but Jesus says it's worth it. Hearing of his sacrifice on the cross brings us the lasting peace that we're forgiven. Hearing that Jesus rose and ascended to rule over all things gives us firm hope in the midst of life's uncertainties.

Don't build your life on shifting sand. Build on solid rock. That's Jesus. His teachings give you the strongest foundation for life. Confidently build your life on him. We'd be glad to help you do exactly that!

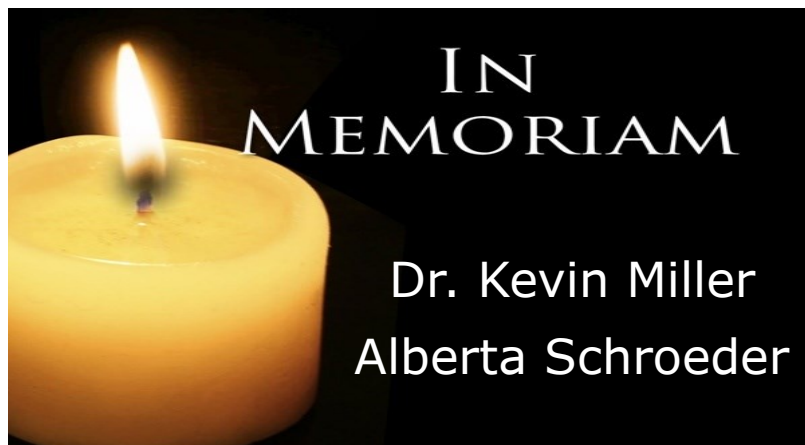


May Birthdays

- 6) Cindy Zanow
- 7) Deirdre Timm
- 13) Kayden Savage
- 14) Dr. Cheli Marichal
 Pastor John Melke
- 17) Ari Etter
- 22) Luanne Sigmund
- 23) Laurel Olson
- 25) Cooper Green
- 27) Kyree Kubat
 Tammy Spees

May Wedding Anniversaries

- 2) Jim and Joy Krahn (32)
- 6) Jason and Sara Kay (18)
- 7) Jeff and Christi Weingart (36)
- 16) Larry and Sue Riedel (43)
- 25) Rusty and Stephanie Roe (11)
- 28) Allan and Pat Rozelle (58)



Send your Holy Spirit to mightily bless Your Word in me. With Your Word enable me to face and defeat temptations. When I am tempted to think there is no room for heartfelt compassion, use Your Word to bring me back to my senses. Strengthen my will and my willingness to follow Jesus Christ.

I pray for the sick, the suffering, the grieving, the lonely and especially those close to our hearts. Be with all these souls by the power of Your Word. Heal, help and comfort them according to your surprising mercies. In Jesus Christ I ask this. Amen.

Parish Nurse Notes

This month we recognize Memorial Day. On that day we honor American's military men and women who lost their lives in service to their country. Additionally, many people take the day to remember non-military loved ones who have died.

Death can be troubling. In the beginning, God did not create things to die. There was no need to say goodbye to loved ones. There was no need for Arlington National Cemetery. No need for funerals. In 1 Corinthians 15:26 death is identified as an enemy. Death leads to grief. You may be dealing with grief, or you may know someone dealing with grief.

Christian Family Solutions (CFS) reminds us that grief is a response to a loss. The response typically includes feelings of deep sorrow and distress. Grief is an individual process. How you grieve will be unique to you. It will be impacted by the significance of the loss, prior history with loss, and cultural, spiritual, and familial factors. There is no right or wrong way to move through the grief process. CFS has a series of helpful articles on "Grace through Grief" (<https://christianfamilysolutions.org/helpful-articles/>).

Jesus tells us, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:4 NIV.) God does not want us to be uninformed or to grieve as those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.) But it can take time to experience that promised comfort. Maybe the sense of comfort comes in waves. "Sometimes following a loss, people may feel abandoned by or angry with God and question their religious beliefs. Other times people feel more spiritually connected to God following the loss and find hope and purpose through exercising their faith and prayer." (CFS)

Lutheran Family Services has some suggestions for those experiencing grief.

1. Discuss your thoughts and feelings with the closest people in your life. There could be a couple of people we trust the most and whom we can be open and honest about everything. Let them know you are not seeking advice, but your desire is to be heard.
2. Schedule time to "sit in your grief." Some will do this by visiting the cemetery to feel closer to their loved one. Others may spend time looking at old pictures and reminiscing.
3. Attend a grief support group. A local group can be found at <https://www.griefshare.org/findagroup>.

Maybe you are not the person experiencing grief, but you know someone who is and you want to help. Here are some more suggestions from Lutheran Family Services:

1. Be present and available – even sitting quietly without conversation can be helpful.
2. Acknowledge all their feelings, including those that make you uncomfortable.
3. Stay engaged over time, not just during the funeral.
4. Be pro-active. Notice the lawn needs to be cut instead of asking if there is anything you can do.

Listen, listen, and listen some more. Refrain from telling your own stories.

Find more at <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/2019/09/comforting-those-who-grieve/>.

Your sister in Christ,

Kathleen D Lee

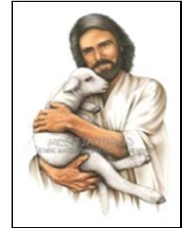


"News from Your School"

May 2024

Good Shepherd Lutheran School, 10611 Hwy 13 South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
PH: 715.325.3355 WEB: 1goodshepherd.org/school/

Email: 1goodshepherdschool@gmail.com



And That's a Wrap!

As we begin the last month of the school year, we thank you for your prayers and support as we minister to the families God has given us to serve through our Lutheran school. While we have many activities planned for the last month of school, and curriculum to finish, we remind ourselves and the students in our care of one thing: after all is said and done, **the most important thing is Jesus!** He is Risen! Alleluia!

Joy in Christ! ~ Mrs. T & Mrs. Irwin

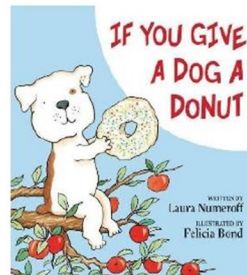
Entertainment Night 2024 – You are Invited!

Friday, May 10

6:30 pm



3K: The Very Hungry Caterpillar



4K& K: If You Give a Dog a Donut



Grades 1-8: The Laffin School!



8th Grade Graduation 2024

Congratulations to

Katlyn Savage,

this year's graduate from our school! May God bless you richly the years ahead.

Sunday, May 26, 2024

COMING UP:

- Entertainment Night: Friday, May 10
- Field Trip to Circus World: Wednesday, May 22
- Last Day of School: Friday, May 24
- 8th Grade Graduation: Sunday, May 26



Retirement Reception For “Mrs. T”

When: Saturday June 8, 2024, 1:00pm—3:00pm
Where: American Legion Hall,
10929 State Highway 13 S.,
Wisconsin Rapids, WI



Good Shepherd is excited to invite you to spend some time with us as we extend our thanks to Jesus for His servant, Donna Tullberg, the first Educator-Principal of our school.

Mrs. T has faithfully served Jesus as a called worker for congregations in Michigan and Wisconsin after graduating in 1977 from Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN.

In 2004, on Reformation Sunday, the congregation expanded our ministries with a Lutheran Elementary school on-site beginning the next year. Mrs. T. has faithfully been serving us ever since as our Principal/Educator for our 3k-8th grade elementary school.

The Bible also says, “**Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God** (1 Corinthians 10:21) Through the years the Holy Spirit has continued to bless His Word through her, helping many families in our church and communities.



You are invited to join us at the American Legion Hall on **Saturday June 8, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm**. We look forward to seeing many of you there as we get share our thanks and renew friendships with all the good memories Jesus has given over the years.

God's people appreciate and publicly thank Donna. She is an extraordinary soul given to us. We join with you in seeking God's continued blessings on her in her retirement. I am certain Donna would love to hear how Jesus has been blessing your lives!

THERE'S A REBELLION GOING ON!

Jesus said, "The Spirit of truth will bring glory to Me. He will take what I have to say and tell it to you." John 16:14 This is the revolutionary truth of the Bible: Jesus taught God loves you; forgave you; have mercy on and take care of others, defend the defenseless. This attitude did not sit well with the political machinery of Jesus' day. Mercy was detestable to the Romans. Romans would often abandon their own deformed children, or take them to the garbage dump outside of town. (Christians back then would rescue, restore and raise those abandoned ones as their own.)

The adults were party animals. Their raves and sexual orgies enslaved boys and girls with easy money and fame. They praised perversions and rebellion as "freedom" and "independence" But if any questioned the lies, they were canceled or killed. "Only the strongest survive." "Life is all about me feeling good." "What's in it for me?!" Pleasure and power and pennies determined how everyone lived.

The teachers in Jesus' day were claiming that God's promised good guy, His holy Messiah, was going to be a political and military hot-shot. Their idea was the Messiah would kick out the bad guys (Roman Empire) then set up the good guys (Israelites) in a glorious kingdom of peace on earth. God would do this because their religious observances were what God wanted to see? God somehow owed them some peace and power?

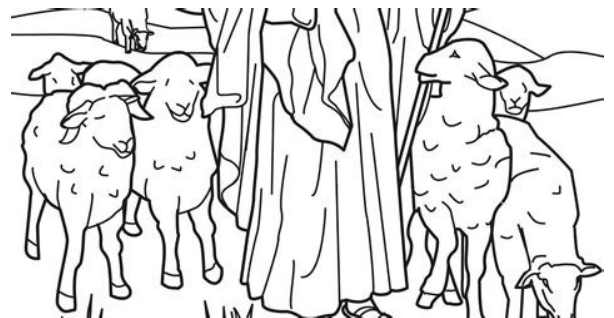
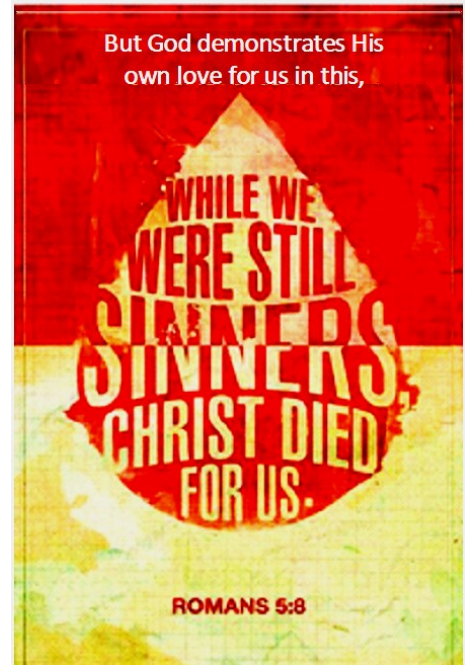


After all, the Roman Empire was addicted to perverted sex, to violent blood-lust, to control over others, self-centered living. Violence was so high that only those who were accompanied by their own paid armed guards would walk the along the narrow streets of Rome at night.

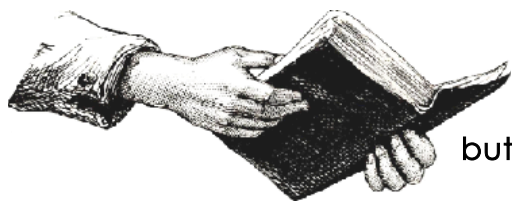
What a dark time and dark culture into which God chose to send His eternal Son, Jesus the Christ. Warped religious teachers of Israel treated Christ and His teachings as a threat. Religious leaders controlled worshipers with rules. Therefore, together with Rome, they judged God's Son as unqualified to live. They killed the Author of life by crucifixion.

But rising from the dead three days later, Jesus sent His followers sent out into this hot-bed of hate and treachery. Out from Jerusalem, God's powerful word was proclaimed to cruel Romans, arrogant Greeks and Israel's religious manipulators. God spread His gift of life and salvation by freely and fully proclaiming God's Gospel. They extended His grace and mercy to sinners.

"Speak the truth in love" was Jesus' teaching. "I will be with you always" was Jesus' guarantee. To make it all happen, God's plan included yet another Gift, another Comforter, the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's work is to be with God's people as we walk through life by His side. And that is exactly what the Holy Spirit still does to this day.



The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to create, sustain and grow faith in Jesus Christ, the world's only Savior. But in His Word the Spirit warns us, "**Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.**" 1 John 4:1



Jesus spoke truth. When we do good, people will mistreat us, slander and ignore us. But God says to do good anyway. There is nothing in my own thinking or choosing that leads me to come to Him. Instead as Jesus said, "**You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.**"

God's word says it again and again "... **by grace, not by works, lest any should boast.**" God does not need a single good work from me; my neighbor does. The lepers of Jesus' day, the repentant thief on the cross, the former Pharisee Saul, Mary and Martha, Peter, Lydia—all rejoiced in God's generous kindnesses freely given to them. The Gospel produced the fruit of joy and thanksgiving in their lives.

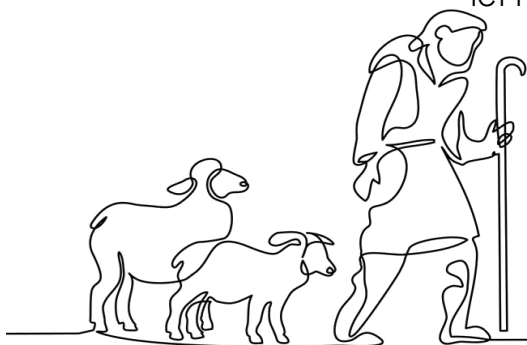
Luther echoed the same truth. He wrote "And when anyone thinks outward actions must display his own righteousness and holiness to God and others, this is a double injury to Christ. First because the fruit is forced; secondly, because the trust is misplaced."

Some would come into God's own flock to twist the Word. The false will claim to be true and the wicked will claim to be good. Jesus pictures them like hungry wolves and roaring lions: dangerous and deadly because of what they taught.

Don't leave the protective side of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Apart from Him, we are easy targets for false teachings sweet tempters. God's Word keeps us in His flock, by His side, blessed beyond measure. God's Word is truth.

So let's keep reading our Bibles! Let's stick close to Christ Jesus, the crucified and risen Savior, God's eternal Son rescued you and me. This same Jesus is returning to take you and me and all believers in Himself home to heaven. He will do this all in His good timing.

This is how the hymnwriter prayed: "Holy Ghost, with light divine shine upon this heart of mine; chase the shades of night away, turn the darkness into day. Let me see my Savior's face, let me all His beauties trace; show those glorious Truths to me which are only known to Thee."



Your called workers had parents and teachers who would encourage them to "Read the Bible." Now, in our time and culture, continue in the revealed word of God. Find out from God Himself what God revealed in His Word." So, let's keep following His Word.

From my family, to you and yours, happy following!

Alive in Jesus!
Pastor Tullberg



Evangelism Bible Study reviewed God's Great Exchange based on a popular evangelism presentation by retired pastor, David Valleskey, we learned how to ask and answer some key questions. What does God demand? What does God see? What are the man-made

remedies? What is God's remedy? What is God's promised gift? What are God's blessings that follow faith in Christ? We pray you learned of God's wonderful relationship with you as you learned more about the Great Exchange He made for all sinners.

PRAISE & PROCLAIM MINISTRIES

Evangelism in the digital age: How to spread the gospel in our communities both personally and on-line.

On Sunday, May 19, 2024 Dave Malnes, president of Praise and Proclaim Ministries, will talk about the partnership with WELS Congregational Services to offer digital advertising for Christmas and Easter and share insights from these campaigns. This includes an overview of the new dynamic of evangelism in a post-Christian digital world and ways to reach a distracted audience. He will also define digital evangelism, describe tools that Praise and Proclaim uses for digital evangelism campaigns, and provide tips for members to participate. **This will be a Zoom conference presentation during Bible Study Time on the 19th.**

Lutheran Military Support Group



With the approach of Memorial Day, we start thinking again of our military and how we can be of assistance to them. The most recent issue of "Forward in Christ" contained an article describing the work of our Pastor in Europe who serves our military and had confirmed four children, three of whom were from military families. When we place donations in the "ammo can" located in our library, those funds are used to assist the Lutheran Military Support Group as they help impact the spiritual lives of others. The "ammo can" will be available May 19th and 26th and we thank you for considering a donation.



Change For Life



The Good Shepherd Ladies Group is again sponsoring the baby bottle event to benefit New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers. It will take place from Mothers Day, May 12th through Fathers Day, June 16th. A buggy full of baby bottles can be found in the narthex. Anyone can participate by taking a bottle home, filling it with loose change, cash or check and returning it no later than June 16th. A basket is provided for return of the bottles. Thank you for participating in this ongoing ministry. You are not just giving a hand-out; you are providing a hand-up.

Adopt a Plot

Spring is here and, with it, an opportunity to help keep our church grounds attractive. Several people volunteered in the past to “adopt a plot” – a small area around the church building in which they planted annuals or perennials, kept free of weeds and maintained it during the growing season. If you signed up and plan to continue caring for your area, great! . . . and many thanks! If you do not plan to continue, please contact Fern so we may seek another volunteer to help keep our gardens growing.



Women’s Bible study coming up on the Bible’s teaching of “heaven and hell”.

Times for the study will be coming up soon. Stay tuned.

Retirement Reception



Mark your calendars! A retirement celebration for our Donna Tullberg, teacher & principal for our school, will be held **Saturday, June 8th** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at **American Legion Post 442, located just south of our church.** There will be food, fun, fellowship, and an opportunity to thank Donna for her many years of service to our church family and community. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex so that you may indicate that you plan to attend . . .

THANK YOU to all who helped in any capacity to assist with the luncheon following the service for Dr. Kevin Miller and for Alberta Schroeder. Your help is greatly appreciated

thank you!

Financial Secretary Report

Thru March 2024

Attendance Summary for March

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024
# weeks	4	4	4	5
Average Sunday	53	78	78	108
Avg Sunday On-Line	108	79	70	54
Total Attendance	911	1129	862	1408
Average Mid-Week	31	45	33	58
Avg Midweek On-line	49	50	35	4
Total Avg Weekly:	257	282	215	282

On Line numbers = # of computers watching X 1.65

Planned Giving & Income through March for current and previous Fiscal Years

Planned Giving & Other Income	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Unified Budget Envelopes	\$195,881.54	\$193,410.95	\$207,634.20	\$237,223.15
On-line Offerings - net (note 1)	38,049.37	31,312.45	30,889.08	30,281.00
Spec Services Envelopes	9,968.78	7,394.00	7,555.00	21,934.01
Initial Offering Envelopes	290.00	230.00	215.00	345.00
Plate	7,542.00	3,594.75	3,065.69	6,293.63
Other Income/Gifts (note 2)	8,603.04	4,692.89	2,608.88	1,296.98
Bank Account Interest	94.94	21.53	197.25	350.52
Actual YTD Total	\$260,429.67	\$240,656.57	\$252,165.10	\$297,724.29
Actual YTD vs Prior YTD	-----	(\$19,773.10)	\$11,508.53	\$45,559.19
Planned YTD Total	\$265,234.50	\$265,963.50	\$279,922.50	\$281,724.00
Changed Plan vs Prior Yr	-----	\$729.00	\$13,959.00	\$1,801.50
Actual YTD vs Plan YTD	(\$4,804.83)	(\$25,306.93)	(\$27,757.40)	\$16,000.29

Planned Giving & Other Income for FY 2023/24 as of March 31, 2024

Planned Giving & Other Income	March	Fiscal YTD	**References**
Unified Budget Envelopes	\$26,874.00	\$237,223.15	Fiscal Yr Giving Plan \$375,632
On-line Offerings - net (note 1)	6,336.00	30,281.00	
Spec Services Envelopes	8,169.01	21,934.01	Monthly Giving Plan \$31,303
Initial Offering Envelopes	15.00	345.00	
Plate	892.40	6,293.63	% of FY Complete (9 of 12 mos) 75.0%
Other Income/Gifts (note 2)	738.00	1,296.98	
Bank Account Interest	43.78	350.52	% of FY Plan Given 79.3%
TOTAL GIVEN	\$43,068.19	\$297,724.29	
Less PayPal fees (note 1)	\$42,872.59	\$296,783.67	

Notes:

- 1) PayPal Fee: \$195.6 YTD: \$940.62
- 2) Thrivent Grant: \$738.00
- 3) Memorial for Emerson Weingart
- 4) In-Kind Contributions: \$41.91 YTD: \$2357.41
- 5) Total Contributions to ALL Special Funds YTD include a \$8,155 undesignated contribution



Financial Secretary

Alan Shepard

Alan Shepard



GOOD SHEPHERD EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL



10611 Highway 13 South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494



Pastors: John T. Melke & Paul A. Tullberg
 Educator/Principal: Donna L. Tullberg
 ECM Teacher/Director: Amanda Irwin

Web Site: 1goodshepherd.org
 Phone: 715-325-3355
 Email: 1goodshepherdchurch@gmail.com

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Scrip Orders Due May 5th Scrip Orders Delivered May 12th	Watch Services: Sunday's on Solarus Channel 3 or Spectrum Ch 985 at 2:00 pm		1	2 3:00 PM Ladies Bible Study Puzzle Pieces of Praise 6:30 PM Worship Service w/Communion	3	4
9:00 AM Worship Service w/Communion 10:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School	6 11:00 AM Coffee w/Christ Pastoral Conference	7 6:30 PM Evangelism	8	9 6:30 PM Worship Service	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School	13 11:00 AM Coffee w/Christ 2:00 PM Ladies Group	14 10:00 AM Board of Elders 6:30 PM Church Council	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 3:00 PM Ladies Bible Study Puzzle Pieces of Praise 6:30 PM Worship Service	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School Evangelism Praise	20 11:00 AM Coffee w/Christ	21	22	23 3:00 PM Ladies Bible Study Puzzle Pieces of Praise 6:30 PM Worship Service w/Communion	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship Service w/Communion	27 	28	29	30 3:00 PM Ladies Bible Study Puzzle Pieces of Praise 6:30 PM Worship Service w/Communion	31	<i>Usher Teams</i> Team 1: Dwight Gilbert Ron Fiedler Team 2: Conrad McGarry Larry Kellinger Team 3: Chris Ribem Bruce Mohlis Team 4: David Hoppe Andy Hogan Team 5: Jim Kralup Adam Tullberg Jim Timmerman Jerry Blum
						



Worship Schedule
Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 am
Bible Class: 10:15 am
Thursday Worship: 6:30 pm

Or Current Resident

Come and See! Go and Tell!
Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
and School—WELS
10611 Highway 13 South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Phone: 715-325-3355
www.lgoodshepherd.org
Pastor Paul A. Tullberg | Pastor John T. Melke
Principal Donna L. Tullberg | ECM teacher Amanda Irwin

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