

# The Good Shepherd's Voice

## May 2025

Newsletter from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School



### How can I be happy when I'm not getting my way?

"Blessed are the meek." Matthew 5:5

Who wants to be considered meek? A meek tiger doesn't get ahead in the jungle, and a meek person doesn't seem to get ahead in this world. To be meek is not always to insist on your rights. To be meek is to let the other guy get his way while your own needs and desires are kept under wraps. "Meek" not only sounds like "weak," but to most people, to be meek is to be weak. And to be that way never gets you ahead in school, in business, in relationships, right?

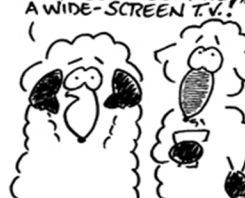
Not so with followers of Jesus. He once equated happiness with being meek and, what's more, He said that Christians actually will "get ahead" by putting others first. This is how Jesus said it: **"Blessed (happy) are the meek, for they will inherit the earth"** (Matthew 5:5).



GOD SPEAKS & THINGS ARE! THE CREATOR SAYS "LET TED BE BLESSED," AND YOU ARE!



REALLY? I WAS HOPING THE CREATOR WOULD SAY "LET TED HAVE A WIDE-SCREEN T.V.!"



MATTHEWS 5:1-12

You see, Jesus was talking to some very secure people when he said that. He was talking to those who had put their trust in him. They weren't secure because they had great careers or lots of money.

They were secure because they knew they had the most valuable thing anyone can ever have: a place in heaven. They trusted that Jesus would take them to heaven when they died. Truth made all the difference in the way they lived. Secure in God's greatest treasure, they didn't have to live the rat-race of trying to secure their financial fortune by being a bully, by running over somebody else's life.

Jesus' followers know this life is not all there is. Jesus' followers know they can be meek—they don't have to get their way all the time because Jesus has set them up for an eternity of happiness.

Guess what happens when you live this way? People notice. People respect you for the way you live. People honor you as someone who puts

the needs of others before your own. In that way you "get ahead" without even trying. You "inherit the earth" even if your meek lifestyle doesn't translate into big bucks.

Jesus blesses us when we walk His way in this world. Being meek isn't being weak. It's being strong. Strong in your trust in the Lord Jesus. Strong in

the sure hope of heaven. Strong in the truth that your loving God will take care of you in this life and the next. Strong enough not to always insist on your way. Be meek. Be happy.

## May Birthdays

6) Cindy Zanow

7) Deirdre Timm

13) Kayden Savage

14) Pastor John Melke

17) Ari Etter

22) Luanne Sigmund

23) Sawyer Tuttle

25) Cooper Green

27) Kyree Kubat

Tammy Spees

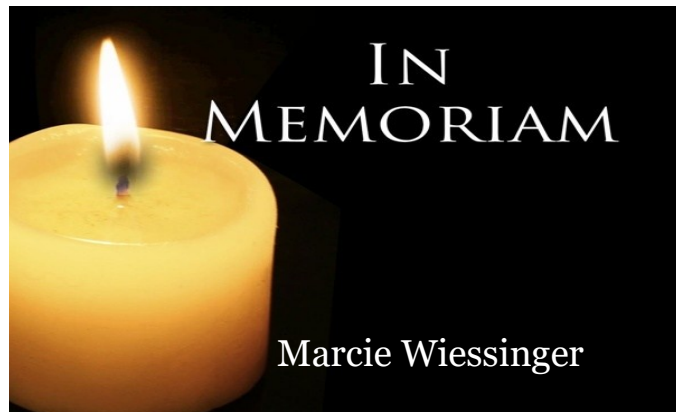
## May Wedding Anniversaries

2) Jim and Joy Krahn (32)

6) Jason and Sara Kay (18)

7) Jeff and Christi Weingart (36)

16) Larry and Sue Riedel (43)



*Dear Father in heaven, You crown motherhood with glory when You say that You love us with a mother's love—fierce, loyal and unconditional. Even though our earthly mothers can fail, You never do. Grant Christian mothers everywhere a rich measure of Your grace so that they carry out their role joyfully. Make them good examples to their children. As You cared for Your mother despite Your agony on the cross, care for all mothers, comfort them in their tears, and encourage them in their prayers. Amen*



## Change for Life - Build a Better Tomorrow

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 11th through Fathers Day, June 15th. 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.

There are other ways to support New Beginnings. If you are interested in joining the network of most committed supporters of the New Beginnings ministry, you can become an ongoing supporter. The New Beginnings Stewardship Club webpage is found at <https://www.homeformothers.com/recurring-donation.html>.

If you are interested in making an occasional single donation, go to <https://www.homeformothers.com/one-time-donation.html>

New Beginnings is thrilled to announce that you can now participate in the Change for Life program digitally! It's never been easier to make a difference. Simply visit [spave.io](https://spave.io) and search New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers or enter the code: 841215090 to start rounding up your contributions for New Beginnings. Join us in creating positive change today!



NEW BEGINNINGS  
A HOME FOR MOTHERS



## Coffee with Christ

The day of the week for "Coffee with Christ" is moving in May. We will meet on **Wednesdays** starting May 7<sup>th</sup>. The location remains the same – Grace's Restaurant (1371 8th St S, Wisconsin Rapids). The start time is 11:00 am. We meet in the backroom. Remember to bring your copy of "Forward in Christ."

## Mission and Safari Trip

**When:** March 3-22, 2026

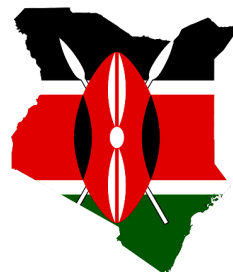
**Where:** Kenya and Tanzania

- During week one, visit multiple congregations that are part of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)—Kenya. LCMC is in fellowship with WELS. One of the churches will be a new build supported by a \$750 tax deductible donation made by the travelers.

The next 11 days are spent in Tanzania on a safari adventure trip with Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT). <https://www.oattravel.com/>. Check out OAT tours on their website.

**Cost:** Approximately \$9000 in addition to the \$750 donation.

**Questions:** Call Tom Thiele (former Good Shepherd member) 262-560-0750. *Kathy Lee will have a limited ability to answer questions.*







## "News from Your School"

May 2025

Email: 1goodshepherdschool@gmail.com

### **The End is Near!**



No, I am not predicting the end of the world. 😊 We pray that Jesus comes quickly, but no one knows when he will arrive except the Father in heaven. We do know when the school year will end though, and it is less than a month away! We have many fun things planned for May to end the school year in style, but we are sad to see another year of learning, fun, and Jesus be over. We are also sad to say farewell to our fifth-grade student, Macie. While we will still get to see her around at church, she is moving onto bigger excitement next year in sixth grade.

Final opportunities for fun this school year include an end of the year field trip on May 1 for grades 1-5, Entertainment Night on May 16, and the final hurrah of the last day of school on May 23. Please join us on May 16 at 6:30 pm to see our students share some of the fun things they've learned this year in song, play, and dance. Feel free to invite others as well so we can share our school with them, and hopefully have them join our school family next year!



<https://forms.gle/Ws6MRvqekFpBJQZs5>



The link to the left and the QR code beside it are the registration form we are using this year. Share this link, QR code, or our school Facebook page with anyone you know who are interested in a Christ-centered education for their child.

To view our School Google Calendar, go to <https://shorturl.at/voct4>. You can add this calendar to yours on your phone or computer to stay up to date on what is going on in our school!

#### **Events for this month:**

- Grades 1-5 Field Trip to UW Madison: Thursday, May 1
- Entertainment Night: Friday, May 16 at 6:30 pm.
- Last Day of School: Friday, May 23

As we finish up the school year, please check out our Amazon wishlist. Even if we do not get them this school year, most of these items will be used year after year in our school. If you would like to support our school in this way to help us celebrate the end of the year, here is the link and QR code to the Amazon wishlist: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/NK08ICXTWUIX?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/NK08ICXTWUIX?ref=wl_share)



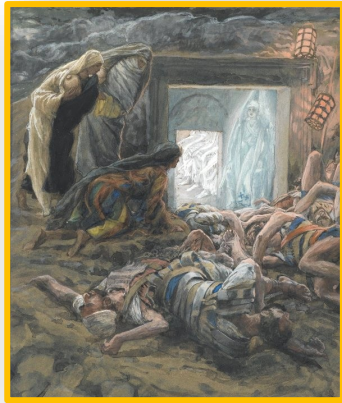
*A blessed May to everyone! See you in church!*  
Miss Cook and Mrs. Irwin



Psalm 136:1  
Salmos 136:1



I pray this finds you thoroughly refreshed in the mercies of our Savior Jesus Christ. As the dust of Palm Sunday was stirred up by a happy parade. That moment vanished as hate-stained dust settled onto the grave



clothes of Jesus not even a week later. But that blood-stained dust at Jesus' tomb was shaken three days later. An earthquake on Easter morning forced our attention back to the graveyard. Remember?

God sent one angel from heaven to that graveyard. With a flick of his finger, he rolled away the tombstone. That was too much for the hardened foot-soldiers of the Roman government. As the dust flew off the tomb-stone, they fainted dead away.

The women came. The angels spoke. Jesus appeared. Hearts settled down just like the dust settled down after all the revealing of the truth: Jesus is risen!

As we walk through this life, we run into a lot of dust. Ours is not dust from a short-lived parade like Palm Sunday, nor the dust of a painful lonely walk like Jesus had through Gethsemane to Golgotha. In fact, we can hardly be walking anymore.

Like the women, we are running out from His tomb to the world! The LORD God Himself personally destroyed death and the power of the devil. Jesus wins! He made sure it was all written down so that we will believe

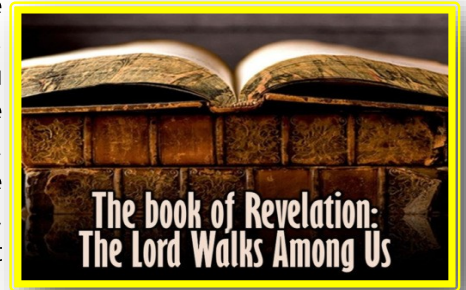
that Jesus is the Christ and so we will have life in His name for ever.

One book of the Bible in which we can read those words of God for ourselves is called Revelation. It is a type of literature called an **Apocalypse** (Greek: **Ἀποκάλυψις** (**Apokálypsis**)). That's a 10 dollar words meaning a "lifting of the veil", "taking the wraps off of something")

Why do we need an unveiling of the Good News? It is because sin has totally blocked the Gospel from us. The whole world, our very DNA, is dominated by falsehood and twisted truth. But God's Gospel in His Word is given because He wants to save souls.

The Last book of the Bible is called the Revelation of Jesus Christ to the apostle John, or simply known as "Revelation" or sometimes called "The Apocalypse of St. John".

In the first verses, John sees Jesus right there among His churches, with them. He is with them and with the pastors He sends to them. Jesus says you, the reader of His Word, are blessed if you read and hear the words of this book. So, since you are going to read it, like Jesus urges, it may prove helpful



to remember some things before you begin. In the centuries before and after the first century, all of science and learning divided creation into four general categories: **land, sea, fresh waters, and heavenly bodies.**

Later on, when you read of "**trumpets**" announcing, and "**bowls**" being poured out, each of those four general areas effect by sin is judged. In vivid picture language that is scary and shakes us to the bone, the Word says that nothing escapes the effects of sin and nothing escapes God's holy judgement on sin.

ALL creation suffers under Adam and Eve's rebellion. But in love, God suffered and died for all of it. Jesus's death and resurrection on the third day paid off sin-debt. in full. We trust God did what He said, yet it is tempting to doubt and become afraid. This seven-fold vision Jesus gave to John in His book was given to encourage believers and toughen up our trust.

It has a clean outline for reading and understanding. There are basically seven parts--



the letters, the scrolls, the trumpets, the visions, the plagues, Christ vs antichrists, and the final Victory.

Each section lays out a vivid picture of the time-before the End. When the final bell rings out, the last Day dawns and all rebellion is revealed and destroyed. This book is like Jesus put out repeating video-clip of HIS-story– the fulfillment of time. This book covers the same time, the time from Jesus' ascension until the Judgement Day.

You, the current reader, are living in these last times. These are increasingly wicked and dangerous times. God's word is clear and certain: nobody is getting away with anything.

God set a Day when all this rebellion against Him comes to an end. Thankfully, God's judgements right now are tempered with His mercy. God wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.

The Last Day is delayed but God has not forgotten us or abandoned us to those who tolerate or promote evil. Believers in Jesus Christ will be wickedly attacked, stressed out physically, emotionally and spiritually. But God has promised we will not be crushed. He will never abandon us but will be right with us, at our side.

Exactly when, and how, various judgments occur, or when they re-occur, God does not detail for us. Instead, Jesus points out **THAT** they will occur, at His timing, the best time and correct time.

That's why the book of Revelation is both cool and crazy, both delightful and dangerous, to a casual reader. God's words are words of life and liberty, of war and victory! Jesus' book of Revelation shouts a loud "Amen" to every promise the Lord God has ever said. The Holy Spirit highlights His promises from Genesis to Jude.

In Revelation, God Himself again lifts our hearts and eyes from the cares of this life to grasp the view through the windows of heaven's final and complete victory. In two words, the theme of Revelation is:

### **Jesus Wins!**

We have that message passed along by women still trying to catch their breath from the urgent surprise of His morning! The hearts, lives and lips of God's people to this day still reflect and echo God's Gospel news of sin forgiven, heaven opened, the Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia! The Lord's last apostle, John, was given a wonderful revelation of this repeating truth: Jesus wins! We get to share the peace Jesus won for us!

From my family to you and yours, happy peace-ing!

Alive in Jesus!  
Pastor T



**Because He first loved us, we can  
love others generously.**

1 JOHN 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

# Parish Nurse Notes

I hope all of you experienced a blessed Easter, and the confidence and joy of the Resurrection continues to be a blessing to you every day. This month I will not focus on one of the health observations associated with May. Instead, I will focus on a topic in the news – measles.

I am writing this newsletter in early April. At this time at least 56 individuals have been hospitalized, and three have died: two children in Lubbock (a six-year-old and an eight-year-old) and an adult in New Mexico. (Texas DSHS) Measles is a serious disease.

Measles, also called rubeola, is caused by a virus. It is highly contagious. The virus lives in the nose and throat mucus of an infected person. It can spread to others through coughing and sneezing. It can live for up to 2 hours in an airspace after an infected person leaves the area. It also lingers on surfaces. If you have measles, up to 90% of the people with close contact with you, who are not immune, will become infected. A person with measles can spread the virus to others for about eight days, starting four days before the rash appears and ending when the rash has been present for four days. (CDC and Mayo Clinic)

Measles signs and symptoms appear around 10 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. The initial signs and symptoms of measles are nonspecific including fever, dry cough, runny nose, sore throat, and inflamed eyes (conjunctivitis). Tiny white spots with bluish-white centers on a red background (Koplik spots) may appear inside the mouth two to three days after symptoms begin. Measles rash appears 3 to 5 days after the first symptoms. It usually begins as flat red spots that appear on the face at the hairline. They then spread downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet. The spots may become joined together as they spread from the head to the rest of the body. As the rash spreads, the fever rises sharply, often as high as 104 to 105.8 F. The rash may last seven days. As other symptoms of the illness go away, the

cough and darkening or peeling of the skin where the rash was may stay for about 10 days. (CDC and Mayo Clinic)

Complications can be deadly. The most common complications are ear infections (about 1 out of every 10 children) and diarrhea (less than 1 out of 10 people). About 1 in 5 unvaccinated people in the U.S. who get measles is hospitalized. As many as 1 out of every 20 children with measles gets pneumonia, the most common cause of death from measles in young children. About 1 child out of every 1,000 who get measles will develop encephalitis (swelling of the brain). This can lead to convulsions and leave the child deaf or with an intellectual disability. Nearly 1 to 3 of every 1,000 children who become infected with measles will die from respiratory and neurologic complications. In pregnant, unvaccinated women, measles may cause premature birth or a low-birth-weight baby. (CDC)

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that children and adults receive the measles vaccine to prevent measles. The measles vaccine is usually given as a combined measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. This vaccine may also include the chickenpox (varicella) vaccine — measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) vaccine. Health care providers recommend that children receive the MMR vaccine between 12 and 15 months of age, and again between 4 and 6 years of age — before entering school.

The MMR vaccine's two doses are 97% effective in preventing measles and protecting against it for life. In the small number of people who get measles after being vaccinated, the symptoms are generally mild.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

*Kathy Lee, RN*





## Church Council Officers and Board Members—2025/2026

President—	Bruce Mohns
Vice-President—	Scott Krug
Recording Secretary—	Pastor Valleau
Board of Elders —Chair	Mike Irwin
	Jeff Weingart
	Adam Timmerman
Board of Education—Chair	Tommy Woltman
	Jon Schoemann
	Gary Heiman
At Large— Evangelism—	Chris Rhein
At Large—Planning—	Dan Dietz
Board of Properties—Chair	Conrad McGarry
	Joe Berdan
Treasurer—	Peter Paul
Financial Secretary—	Alan Shepard



*Thanks for ALL you do to further the harmony of God's Gospel ministries here!*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 16TH HERE AT CHURCH:



6:30 here at church

RAFTERS BALLGAME—July 13

FARMERS MARKET — help needed May 23<sup>rd</sup> (June 20<sup>th</sup>) (July 4<sup>th</sup>) (August 1<sup>st</sup>) (August 29<sup>th</sup>)

SYNOD CONVENTION— New Ulm, Mn—July 20-24 (Monday—Thursday)

MUSIC GROUP *"His Way"* on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

## Financial Secretary Report Thru March 2025

### March Attendance Summary for current and previous years

	2022	2023	2024	2025
# weeks	4	4	5	5
Average Sunday	78	78	108	84
Avg Sunday On-Line	79	70	54	62
Total Attendance	1129	862	1408	1081
Average Mid-Week	45	33	58	46
Avg Midweek On-line	50	35	29	24
Total Avg Weekly:	282	215	282	216

On Line numbers = # of computers watching X 1.65

### Unified Budget Contributions History

Fiscal Year	Actual YTD	Plan YTD	Over/ <u>Under</u> Plan YTD	References
2021-2022	240,656.57	265,963.50	(\$25,307)	Fiscal Yr Giving Plan <b>\$388,600</b>
2022-2023	252,165.10	279,922.50	(\$27,757)	
2023-2024	297,766.29	281,724.00	\$16,042	Monthly Giving Plan <b>\$32,383</b>
2024-2025	\$271,126.04	\$291,450	(\$20,324)	

**PLEASE NOTE THE SIGNIFICANT SHORTFALL OF CONTRIBUTIONS!**

### How Donating to Good Shepherd via IRA Charitable Distributions Can Save You Taxes!

If you have a traditional IRA and are 70-1/2 years of age or older, here is a great option for making gifts to the Lord's work at church, a local WELS-affiliated ministry, and/or a WELS area of ministry.

Typically, distributions that you receive from a traditional IRA account are taxable. But for anyone 70-1/2 or older, qualified distributions from an IRA to charity are FREE from federal and potentially state income tax. This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you are over 70-1/2 consider sourcing your regular and/or your special giving to Good Shepherd by directing pre-tax IRA distributions instead of using after tax funds. This will save you from having paid taxes on the gifts you make.

And here's double good news for anyone 73 and older. Giving as described above also works toward satisfying the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

If interested, talk to your financial planners and your local [WELS Christian giving counselor](#) to learn more.



Financial Secretary

*Alan Shepard*

Alan Shepard



Pastors: John L. Wieke & Paul A. Tullberg  
 Educator/Principal: Hannah E. Cook  
 ECM Teacher/Director: Amanda Irwin

# GOOD SHEPHERD EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

10611 Highway 13 South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494



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

## May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Scrip Orders Due <b>May 4th</b> Scrip Orders Delivered <b>May 11th</b>	Watch Services Sunday's on Solarus Channel 3 or Spectrum Ch 985 at 2:00 pm			<b>1</b> 6:30 PM Worship Service w/Communion	<b>2</b> Ladies Night Out	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service w/Communion 10:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School	<b>5</b> Pastors Circuit Meeting 6:30 PM Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 11:00 AM Coffee w/Christ 6:30 Confirmation	<b>8</b> 6:30 PM Worship Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Mother's Day 11</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School	<b>12</b> 2:00 PM Ladies Group 7:00 PM Elders	<b>13</b> 6:30 PM Church Council	<b>14</b> 11:00 AM Coffee w/Christ 6:30 Confirmation	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Worship Service	<b>16</b> Entertainment Night 6:30 PM	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b> 11:00 AM Coffee w/Christ 6:30 Confirmation	<b>22</b> 6:30 PM Worship Service w/Communion	<b>23</b> Last Day of School	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service w/Communion 10:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> 4:30 PM Board of Ed	<b>28</b> 11:00 AM Coffee w/Christ 6:30 Confirmation	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>





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 Hannah E. Cook

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