

People Flourish at Good Shepherd

by The GSLC Generosity Committee

November is a time to give thanks.

Paul tells the Thessalonians it was God's will to "give thanks in all circumstances." For many, the circumstances of 2025 don't seem worth celebrating. But Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, even when put in prison by the Nazis in World War II, understood the importance of being thankful. "In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich."

Good Shepherd has a lot to be thankful for. More people are attending worship in 2025 than last year. Our choir is the biggest in decades. Our Outreach ministries, like our Food Pantry and Clothes Closet, are helping more people. We're seeing significant growth in our Children, Youth and Family program. We think there's a reason for our success.

People **flourish** at Good Shepherd.

More than 30 members told us their stories of how ministries at Good Shepherd have helped them **flourish** here. These stories are unique...you won't hear these stories elsewhere.

SAVE THE DATE
Congregational Life
Conversations on Generosity
November 16 – Madison
November 23 – Verona



SAVE THE DATE
Giving Sunday
November 16
gslcwi.com/flourish

In November, we have many ways for you to say how Good Shepherd helps you **flourish** as well:

Generosity Trees

The first week of November, all Good Shepherd members will have the chance to write down how the church helps them **flourish**. Those sentiments will fill out tree branches in the lobby to demonstrate all the ways people flourish here.

Congregational Life Conversations

The Generosity team will join Pr. Craig to talk with you about how money raised in this year's Generosity campaign will help

Good Shepherd **flourish** in 2026. And we'll talk about why increased generosity will be needed to enhance programming, so we can live into our mission to Welcome, Forgive and Serve.

Giving Sunday

Members can bring their tithes and offerings to church on Sunday, November 16, as we build a church that **flourishes** together — for generations to come.

Thanksgiving Eve

Finally, we'll gather Wednesday, November 26 for our annual Thanksgiving Eve service to thank God for all he has given us this year (including pie, which we get to eat afterwards 😊) On Thanksgiving Day, we will again host a meal for our members and the community, just one of many ways the connection to our friends and neighbors is **flourishing**.

Please join us for a month of thanksgiving and celebration. We hope it makes you feel like you're flourishing at Good Shepherd as well.

Heather Allen, Jon Bach, Bob Beggs, Rick Blum,
Jen Holmer & Pr. Craig McMahon
Generosity Committee | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to Jeanne Venzke and family on the death of her brother, Jeff Olson of Waukesha, WI, who died on October 5, 2025.

Christian Sympathy to Doug Baez and family on the death of his mom, Gloria Baez of Madison, WI, who died on October 14, 2025.

Christian Sympathy to Sherry Bergeron and family on the death of her husband, Bill Bergeron of Madison, WI, who died on October 21, 2025.

All Saints Sunday is November 3

On All Saints Sunday, we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead through Jesus Christ. We also grieve our beloved dead, knowing that God honors our tears. As we have done in the past, we will honor and remember Good Shepherd members who have died during the past year on Sunday, November 2.

We remember with thanksgiving:

Marian Balch	Chase Messner
Bill Bergeron	Richard Nordeng
Gerry Born	Marcia Ouchakof
Ben Caldwell	Herman Pongratz
Cathy Foltz	Eleanor Sather
Sally Holl	Robert Sonntag
Cheri Ignatowski	Shirley Wegenke
Judy McAusland	

We give thanks and pray for all the saints in our lives and those in our community who are struggling with their loss.

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD

September 2025 Update

Statement of Activity - General Fund

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 498,959	\$ 537,958	\$ (38,999)
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(570,736)	(490,690)	(80,046)
Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage	\$ (71,777)	\$ 47,268	\$ (119,045)

Cash Balances

	September 2025	June Fiscal YR 2025	YTD	Change
General Fund	\$ 251,512	\$ 574,578	\$	(323,066)
Board Designated Reserves	834,143	-		834,143
Donor/Grant Restricted Funds	461,183	362,559		98,624
Capital Campaign Projects Fund	28,527	27,497		1,030
Columbarium	105,833	91,840		13,993
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 1,681,198	\$ 1,056,474	\$	624,724

Did you know Good Shepherd can accept stocks or direct gifts from your IRA as a donation? You might have additional ways to contribute to Good Shepherd that help maximize your charitable impact. Good Shepherd can accept appreciated assets, such as stocks, or donations made directly from your IRA through a Qualified Charitable Donation or QCD. If you have any questions, reach out to Good Shepherd's accountant at accounting@gslcwi.com.

GOOD SHEPHERD COLUMBARIUM

The First Decade of the Columbarium

Over the past ten years 236 Good Shepherd members have chosen the Columbarium as their place of final rest. The Columbarium has grown from a single sided wall of niches to a double-sided wall with only a few niches remaining. In addition to the niche wall, many features have been added, including the statue of the Good Shepherd, beautiful landscaping, several benches, a water feature, and pavers to honor loved ones. Looking ahead, the Columbarium will continue to expand with a second semi-circular wall of 144 niches and several additional benches. The expansion will allow more members to choose our Columbarium as a final resting place, and that could include you and your loved ones. On All Saints Day, as we remember our loved ones who have gone before us, it is a good time to also be thinking about how and where you would like your loved ones to remember you. Take a walk through the grounds of the Columbarium at the Verona Campus and consider if it is the place you choose for your final resting place. For more information or to purchase your niche, please contact Rick Blum, the Columbarium Administrator at 608-640-4902.

Verona Site Pastor Transition Task Force Update

The Verona Site Pastor Transition Task Force has been hard at work over the past few months! Our role is to develop the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) — a long document that serves as the detailed job description for potential candidates. To create this, we need your input! Congregational surveys will be distributed soon to help us better understand what makes each campus unique and why people choose to worship where they do. Your feedback will guide us in identifying the skills and qualities most important for a pastor serving primarily at Verona. As a reminder, the Verona Site Pastor will be based at Verona, spending about 80% of their time in Verona and 20% in Madison. If you worship in Madison, you'll still see this pastor regularly—preaching, connecting, and participating in events at both campuses.





Post-Marathon Party

Sunday, November 9 | 4:00-5:45 p.m.

Danielle Sill | Danielle.n.sill@gmail.com

Verona Draft House

Celebrate with Team World Vision after the Madison Marathon at the Draft House in Verona. Enjoy appetizers and fellowship. A suggested \$10 donation will go to support clean water efforts.



What is Christian Nationalism?

Sunday, November 16 | 11:15 a.m.

Eric Holmer | eholmer@gslcwi.com

Verona Campus Coffee Area

Continuing the conversation on Christian Nationalism from the Madison Campus in October, this adult forum brings Breanna Illéné from the Wisconsin Council of Churches to share about this phenomenon and how we can respond in faith.



Advent Wreath Making

Sunday, November 23 (9 & 10 a.m.) & 30 (6 p.m.)

Emily Gold | egold@gslcwi.com

Madison and Verona Campus

All people of Good Shepherd are invited to gather for a chance to make your own Advent wreath. We'll explore the meaning behind this tradition, craft together and provide Advent devotionals.

Toothbrush Drive this November

Our church school classes at Madison and Verona are working hard to collect toothpaste and toothbrushes! These supplies will be donated to God's Hands and Feet Ministry, who will distribute to folks in Madison's surrounding Meadowood community, Dane County and Christmas Shoebox gifts. Please help us reach our goal of 100 toothbrushes and toothpaste!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

Two Documentary Screenings on Youth & Technology this Month

Screenagers: For Middle and High School Families

Wednesday, November 5 at 6:15 p.m. | Verona Campus

Screenagers Elementary Edition

Sunday, November 9 at 11:15 a.m. | Verona Campus

Lunch and Childcare Provided with Registration

Time to Order Poinsettias

The deadline for sponsoring a poinsettia plant(s) for the Christmas Eve Services is rapidly approaching. Each plant costs \$17. You can order online at gslcwi.com/christmasflowers25 or the paper form in your bulletin. Your order must be **received in the Madison Office by Thursday, November 6.**



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Preview the Music Monday Christmas Concert

Our Good Shepherd Choir is already preparing for the Christmas season. On Saturday, October 25, many choir members gathered for an extended rehearsal to get an early start on the music for this year's concert, and the music is already sounding beautiful. We invite you to join us for our Music Monday Christmas Concert on Monday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Madison Campus. This year's program will feature Part I of Handel's Messiah presented with a full orchestra, along with Sing We Noel, a new Christmas cantata by composer Joel Raney. The performance will include Good Shepherd's 50-voice choir, guest soloists, and an orchestra with many musicians from Madison's Just Bach Ensemble. This annual concert is free and open to the public, made possible through the generosity of the Good Shepherd Foundation. We hope you will come and invite others to share in this meaningful and joy-filled musical celebration of the Christmas season.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Fall Fun at Madison Campus

Hundreds of children and families stopped by the Madison Campus parking lot on Saturday, October 25 for the annual Trunk or Treat event. Thank you to all who volunteered to help welcome and serve!



Madison Campus (MAILING ADDRESS)

5701 Raymond Rd.
Madison, WI 53711-4231
608-271-6633

Verona Campus

7291 County PD
Verona, WI 53593
608-845-8955

Fax 608-271-2657

info@gslcwi.com

gslcwi.com

Sunday Worship Times

In-Person & Online | gslcwi.com/live

9:00 a.m. Madison Campus

10:00 a.m. Verona Campus

6:00 p.m. Verona Campus

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Madison, WI
Permit No. 1265

WORSHIP & FEAST
**Thanksgiving Together
at Good Shepherd**



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Celebrate on Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us in giving thanks and celebrating the abundant blessings of God at our annual Thanksgiving Eve Worship service. Time for fellowship will follow while enjoying pie, cider and coffee. Help provide pie for the event by signing up online at gslcwi.com/thanksgiving



COMMUNITY EVENT

Thanksgiving Day Meal

Thursday, November 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

A Thanksgiving meal with friends, family and neighbors! Sign up to **serve or donate** food starting October 31 at gslcwi.com/thanksgiving. Thank you for making this meal an important part of our community!