



Highlighting Local Partnerships Throughout Justice & Advocacy Month

“God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.” -Martin Luther

As we turn to a new year and the season of Epiphany, it is a great time to reflect on the past and look at what we hope for the future. At Good Shepherd, we are known for serving our community. It is part of the history of our church that I am proud to be a part of. We serve our neighbors in so many ways- through food ministries, providing rental assistance, free clothing for children, supporting our adopt-a-school, raising money for clean water projects and making beautiful quilts for people in need around the world- the list could go on. Our Outreach Ministries run deep and wide and give us a glimpse of a grace-filled future where all have what they need.

The other side of serving our neighbors in love is learning about where our gifts and the needs of the world meet. This is the work of advocacy and justice. Serving others is not only about providing for their basic needs, but it is also about seeing the systems that are not working and are keeping people from being able to live with dignity and working to change that. We already participate in this work in Outreach Ministry through our Reconciling in Christ (LGBTQIA+ Inclusion) Ministry, our Refugee Resettlement Ministry, our partnership with Madison Street Medicine (a non-profit working to support the unhoused) and our ongoing support of Lutheran World Relief (now called Global Refuge) to name a few.

Here's one example. In the past year our food pantry has continued to see increased usage. Our congregation has met this need with generous donations and an abundance of volunteers. This is good work and is a way to show our thanks and praise to God by serving our neighbors. But the best day in a food pantry is not the day it opens or any of the other days that it serves people. The best day in a food pantry is the day it is no longer needed because everyone has enough. Finding ways to move toward long term solutions and better ways to use our resources to help all is another way to honor God. You are invited to learn more this month and see where God is leading us to serve one another at Good Shepherd. While we are already doing this work, you are invited to learn more about the ways we can participate in these long-term solutions and what it means to speak out and stand up for those most in need.



Pastor Dara Schuller-Hanson
Pastor of Mission & Outreach

Weekly Partner Spotlights



Sunday, January 4
Homeless Services Consortium



Sunday, January 11
Trans Medical Mutual Aid



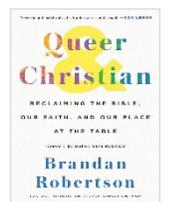
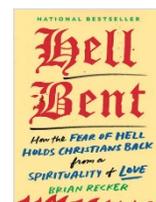
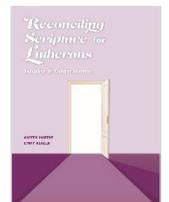
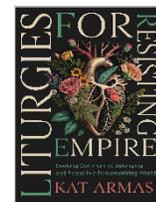
Sunday, January 18
Open Doors for Refugees



Sunday, January 25
Reconciling in Christ Sunday

Book Recommendations

This month at Good Shepherd, we are focusing on advocacy and justice. God calls us to be people who bring God's kingdom here on earth. But how do we live that out? All month we will be sharing some book recommendations that explore these themes. **Check them out from the Good Shepherd Library** to learn more about what this call means for our lives!



Baptisms

Griffin Lee Carlson, child of Heather and Timothy Carlson, baptized on Sunday, December 21, 2025.

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to Kristine Dreger and family on the death of her mother, Verna Gould of Madison, WI, who died on December 30, 2025.

Christian Sympathy to Jane Davis and family on the death of her sister, Peggy McGaffey of Appleton, WI, who died on January 4, 2026.



Seeking Donations for Madison Street Medicine this Winter

Madison Street Medicine brings free healthcare and essential supplies to people living outdoors. We are in need of duffle bags, hand warmers, blankets, tents & men's coats. Drop off donations at Madison Campus or contact donna@madisonstreetmedicine.org to make arrangements. Thanks for your help!



Celebrating the Season at Good Shepherd
Highlights from Advent & Christmas



FINANCIAL DASHBOARD
November 2025 Update

Statement of Activity - General Fund

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 847,325	\$ 853,310	\$ (5,986)
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(932,592)	(957,731)	25,139
Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage	\$ (85,267)	\$ (104,421)	\$ 19,154

Cash Balances

	November 2025	June Fiscal YR 2025	YTD	Change
General Fund	\$ 468,043	\$ 574,578	\$	(106,535)
Board Designated Reserves	598,691	-		598,691
Donor/Grant Restricted Funds	561,369	362,559		198,810
Capital Campaign Projects Fund	28,897	27,497		1,400
Columbarium	104,595	91,840		12,755
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 1,761,595	\$ 1,056,474	\$	705,121



Register for Pine Lake Camp | July 11-17

It's never too early to start planning for summer! Registration is open for Good Shepherd's week of July 11-17 at Pine Lake Camp near Waupaca. This incredible camp experience is available for kids in 1st grade through high school. Sign up at gslcwi.com/pinelake before March 1st for the early bird discount! Whether your child is looking for adventure, personal growth or simply time away in nature; Pine Lake Camp offers something for everyone. Spots fill up quickly, so don't wait—register now and secure your spot.

Souper Bowl XXV Sunday is February 8

Mark your calendars for Souper Bowl XXV on Sunday, February 9, with a kick-off at the 6 p.m. service on February 2. Preferred soups include ramen, chicken noodle, and chunky-style, or give monetary contributions to support three food pantries. Checks should note "Souper Bowl," and online donations can be made at gslcwi.com/SouperBowl. Let's beat last year's total of 2,705 cans!





Baptism Class

- 📅 Thursday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m.
- 👤 Emily Gold | egold@gslcwi.com
- 📍 Zoom

Anyone interested in baptism here at Good Shepherd is welcome to join our baptism class on Thursday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m. via zoom. Email Emily Gold to register for the class.



GLOW Family Worship Night

- 📅 Friday, January 9 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- 👤 Emily Gold | egold@gslcwi.com
- 📍 Verona Campus

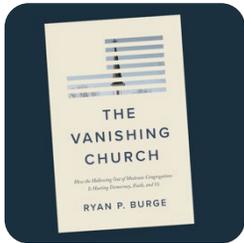
Enjoy time together hearing an Epiphany message, music, glow-in-the dark games, food and fellowship! This free event is geared towards families with kiddos preschool-5th grade.



BINGO Night

- 📅 Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- 👤 Ronda Beggs | rbeggs@gslcwi.com
- 📍 Verona Campus Coffee Area

Monthly, free community Bingo restarts Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Verona Campus. Win fabulous prizes and enjoy appetizers from the Holy COW food ministry.



“Vanishing Church” Book Study

- 📅 Four Week Study begins Tuesday, January 20
- 👤 Eric Holmer | eholmer@gslcwi.com
- 📍 Madison Campus and Zoom

“The moderate American church is disappearing-- and it's taking democracy with it.” This four-part study will explore the findings of church demographics expert Ryan Burge.



Fix-It Faire

- 📅 Thursday, January 22 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 👤 Rick Thomas | rthomas@gslcwi.com
- 📍 Madison Campus

Bring in your broken small appliances, lamps, mending, bikes, etc. and see if they can be repaired instead of thrown away. We will have "experts" who will help fix your items for free.



Boy Scouts Appreciation Brunch

- 📅 Sunday, February 1 | After 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 👤 Rick Thomas | rthomas@gslcwi.com
- 📍 Madison Campus

The Scouts would like to invite people to a brunch for the support that our congregation gives to the Troop and Pack. Food will be prepared by the Scouts in cooperation with the Holy COW Food Ministry. We hope to see you there.

Can we disagree and still belong to each other in a *divided world*?



Documentary Screening with Director Q&A

- Saturday, January 24
- Doors: 9:30 a.m.
- Film: 10:00 a.m.
- Verona Public Library Community Room
- Free Event thanks to a grant from the Good Shepherd Foundation

Contact: Eric Holmer
eholmer@gslcwi.com

Sign Up for 2026 Altar Flowers

Sign up to sponsor altar flowers in 2026 in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or special occasion. Sign up at the Madison Campus, online at gslcwi.com/flowers, or email Judy at jhoard@gslcwi.com. Each arrangement is \$60. Make checks payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with "altar flowers" in the memo.

2026 Church School Offerings Support God's Hands & Feet

This year, our church school classes are learning about service in action by partnering with God's Hands & Feet Ministry. Each month, our church school kids and their families are collecting donations that will be distributed by God's Hands & Feet Ministry to children and adults in need of support in Dane County.

In The Next Issue: Lent Begins

On Ash Wednesday, February 18, we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism.



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FAREWELL & GODSPEED

Director of Worship & Music Jared Stellmacher accepts new ministry call in Florida

Good Shepherd Worship & Music Director Jared Stellmacher has accepted a new call as Director of Worship and Music at Riverside Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Jared served Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for more than eight years with extraordinary dedication, creativity and care. His leadership has helped the worship life of this congregation flourish. Jared's final Sunday at Good Shepherd will be Sunday, January 25.

Jared says this decision did not come easily. "Serving at Good Shepherd has been a true gift, I am incredibly proud of the ministry we have built together and of the many ways music has supported and strengthened the worship life of this congregation."

"Thank you for the countless **memories**, the **shared ministry**, and the **grace** you have shown me over these years. I will always be **thankful** for my time at Good Shepherd and for the ways this community has shaped my **life** and **faith**."

Blessing & Farewell Celebrations

After Verona Worship | Sunday, January 18
After Madison Worship | Sunday, January 25

Read more at gslcwi.com/worship26