



## Let's Make a Difference Together

March is Outreach Month at Good Shepherd.

This month is a time when we hit pause, look around, and ask, "how can we love our neighbors better?" Outreach isn't just a program we run. It is part of who we are as followers of Jesus. It is showing up, caring, listening, and being a light in our community.

Throughout the month we will be highlighting various Outreach Ministries here at Good Shepherd. We will be leaning into ways we can help our community in practical ways, whether it is through donating items to our Food Pantry, the Clothes Closet, Orchard Ridge Elementary or Madison Street Medicine, you can make a difference here in Madison and Verona. We will also highlight our partner schools and community organizations.

We will share God's love through service and invite everyone in our church to get involved in some way.

Some of the events of note this month include: a **Ministry Fair** at the Madison campus on March 8, a **Ministry Fair** at the Verona campus on March 15, an **Outreach Book Study** on Monday nights March 2 – March 23, **Holy COW tours** on March 22 and the **Feed My Starving Children** events March 13-14.

As we go through Outreach Ministry Month, we are praying that God would stretch us, inspire us, and help us see the people around us the way He sees them. Our goal isn't just to complete projects, but to build relationships and share hope.



**Rick Thomas**

Director of Outreach  
rthomas@gslcwi.com



**Elizabeth Foste-Ackermann**  
Chair of the Call Committee

## Lead Pastor Call Committee Update

We are excited to share that the lead pastor call committee is in conversations with a promising pastor candidate and are encouraged by where the Spirit seems to be leading. A key part of the pastoral call process is confidentiality. Out of respect for their current congregation, pastors who are discerning a new call must do so quietly until confidentiality is no longer necessary. The lead pastor call committee takes very seriously your vote of confidence in us to represent the congregation in receiving candidates, conducting interviews, and prayerfully discerning on behalf of the church.

We hope all will go well and the congregation will have the opportunity to meet the recommended candidate and vote. If both the call committee and the candidate discern that Good Shepherd is a good match, we will have everyone meet the recommended candidate and determine whether to call them to our congregation. We are grateful for your prayers, patience, and trust as we continue this important work of discernment.

### Worship & Music Task Force Formed

Good Shepherd has formed a new task force to begin determining the needs for Worship & Music following Jared Stellmacher's departure. Good Shepherd Board VP Karen Smith will chair this committee. Look for more updates in the months ahead.

**Christian Sympathy**

Christian Sympathy to Judah Balli and family on the death of his father, James Balli of, who died on February 1, 2026



**Thank you for Donating!**

The Good Shepherd Children’s Clothes Closet thanks you for your donations that help provide clothing for children in our community. Keep an eye on the bulletin insert for updated needs.



**Holy COW Internship**

We’re looking for a HS or college intern to work 12-16 hours per week prepping food, cooking, helping with the food truck calendar and assisting volunteers in cooperation with our staff. To apply or get more information, contact Rick Thomas (rthomas@gslcwi.com).



**Foundation Supports Ministries through Latest Grants**

The Good Shepherd Foundation met on February 2, 2026, and awarded the following grants:

- **Good Shepherd Food Pantry**     \$ 18,000
- **Holy Cow Summer Intern**         \$ 3,600
- **Six summer interns for CYF**     \$ 17,000

The Foundation is an important part of the GSLC ministry, providing funding for programs that are not part of the operating budget of the congregation. We thank those members who have gone before us and generously left a legacy gift to make these ministries possible. If you’re interested in leaving a legacy gift to the Good Shepherd Foundation, please fill out the letter of intent at [gslcwi.com/foundation](http://gslcwi.com/foundation).

**Financial Dashboard | January 2026**

**Statement of Activity - General Fund**

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 1,471,718	\$ 1,390,517	\$ 81,201
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(1,379,057)	(1,333,352)	(45,705)
Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage	\$ 92,661	\$ 57,165	\$ 35,496

**Cash Balances**

	January 2026	June Fiscal YR 2025	YTD	Change
General Fund	\$ 643,942	\$ 574,578	\$	69,364
Board Designated Reserves	598,691	-		598,691
Donor/Grant Restricted Funds	512,122	362,559		149,563
Capital Campaign Projects Fund	29,497	27,497		2,000
Columbarium	104,176	91,840		12,336
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 1,888,428	\$ 1,056,474	\$	831,954



**Pr. Dara to go on Sabbatical to finish Doctoral Thesis**

The Good Shepherd Board has approved a request for Pr. Dara Schuller-Hanson to take a 12-week sabbatical starting Sunday, June 14. Pr. Dara has served at Good Shepherd since 2012. She will use her time away to work on her doctoral thesis. “My doctoral project topic is centered around God’s desire for us to rest,” said Pr. Dara. “Sleep and rest are central to our physical, emotional and spiritual health and while I write about it this summer in my thesis, I hope to also practice it.” Pr. Dara is on track to graduate from the University of Dubuque with her Doctorate in Ministry in May of 2027. “It is a joy to minister alongside a congregation that has a sabbatical policy in place and wants to support its pastors by recognizing our need for renewal,” said Pr. Dara.

**Facts about Good Shepherd’s Sabbatical Policy**

Good Shepherd has had a sabbatical policy in place since 2014.

Pastors are eligible for a sabbatical at Good Shepherd after serving here 6 years.

Only one Pastor sabbatical is granted in a calendar year.

All compensation and benefits of the Pastor continue during the sabbatical leave.

The general costs of the sabbatical are the responsibility of the Pastor.

**Pastors who have taken Sabbaticals at Good Shepherd**

Pastor Tim Nybroten – Summer 2014

Pastor Sheryl Erickson – Summer 2016

Pastor Dara Schuller-Hanson Summer 2019 (only 6 weeks)



### Feed My Starving Children Event

📅 March 13-15  
 👤 Rick Thomas | rthomas@gslcwi.com  
 📍 Verona Campus

Volunteer spots are filling quickly, but there's still time to serve. Visit [give.fmssc.org/verona](http://give.fmssc.org/verona) and click Volunteer to sign up for a spot today!



### Weekly Lenten Soup Lunch

📅 Wednesdays in Lent at 11:00 a.m.  
 👤 Pr. Dara Schuller-Hanson | dschuller@gslcwi.com  
 📍 Peterson Hall at Madison Campus

Gather for a weekly soup lunch and a time for a brief Lent devotional led by a Good Shepherd Pastor.



### Spring Baptism Class

📅 Thursday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m.  
 👤 Emily Gold | egold@gslcwi.com  
 📍 Online via Zoom

Join Pr. Sheryl and Children's Ministry Director, Emily Gold, to learn more about baptism.

### Little Blessings Launches New Free 4K Program

Exciting news! Little Blessings Preschool - Madison will offer half-day 4K classes this fall M-F from 8:30-11:30 a.m. as part of the Get Kids Ready program, starting Sept. 1! You don't have to be in the Madison school district to qualify, and the program is paid for by the state of Wisconsin. Limited spots are available. We also have options for all-day care, too! Look for more information on our website: [littleblessingsps.com](http://littleblessingsps.com), email Heidi at [handerson@gslcwi.com](mailto:handerson@gslcwi.com), or call 608.640.4913.



### Columbarium Water Volunteer

The Good Shepherd Columbarium Board is looking for someone to help maintain our water feature, an important element of the Columbarium. Volunteer tasks include:

- In the spring: installing the water pump, reconnecting the water supply and getting the water feature operational.
- During the summer months: adding chemical to reduce algae growth and keep the water clear.
- In early October: Disconnect the water supply, removing the pump, cleaning out the leaves and derbies and covering the area with netting.

If this volunteer opportunity is of interest to you, please contact Steve Frei at [sgfrei@gmail.com](mailto:sgfrei@gmail.com). Thank you!

### Call for Board Candidates

The Nominating Committee is looking to fill three open Board positions this year. The Nominating Committee is responsible for screening and nominating candidates in accordance with Article IV of the GSLC Constitution. Board representation seeks to reflect the diversity and characteristics of our congregation. The Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month. In addition, Board members serve as liaisons to various GSLC Committees. For a more detailed description of the Board of Directors and its responsibilities, please refer to Article XII of the GSLC Constitution, available on the Good Shepherd website: [gslcwi.com/constitution](http://gslcwi.com/constitution). If you are interested in being considered for a Board position, please email your expression of interest by March 16, 2026 to [nominatingcommittee@gslcwi.com](mailto:nominatingcommittee@gslcwi.com). An expression of interest should include your contact information and a brief statement describing your interest in serving on the Board. The Nominating Committee will review all expressions of interest and nominate candidates for presentation to the congregation for election.



### Celebrating Souper Bowl XXVI

Thanks to ALL of You on the Good Shepherd team who joined the fight to "tackle hunger" in the Madison & Verona communities. There were an amazing **2,237 cans of soup donated!** Thanks to all who put money in the soup pots, the church school offerings and other monetary donations. **The total giving is \$1515!** Your monetary gifts will make it possible for the Pantries to purchase other needed food items. Your financial support of the Souper Bowl is greatly appreciated. A special thanks to the following volunteers for their help on Souper Bowl Saturday and Sunday: James, Henry, Carrie and Jon Bach, Jenny and Andrew Johnson, Luke McCarty, Soren, Annika, Bret and Katie Wagner and Steve and Betsy Johnson. All the soup and money is divided between the Good Shepherd, Allied and Badger Prairie Food Pantries to help feed hungry families who rely on the food pantries.



### Congregational Meeting March 8

The Good Shepherd Board has called a Congregational meeting for Sunday, March 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the Verona Campus to approve a new Facilities Fund and approve spending on facility needs this year. These improvements are coming, thanks to a major estate gift given to the church. You can attend the meeting online by going to [gslcwi.com/march8](http://gslcwi.com/march8).



**Good Shepherd**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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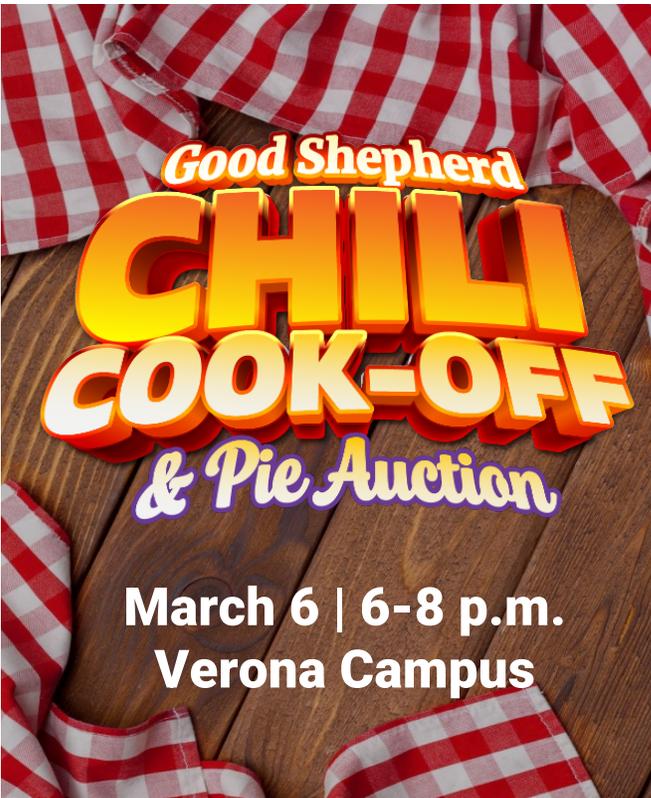
**Holy Week  
Worship**

**Palm Sunday** | March 29  
Madison 9 a.m.  
Verona 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

**Maunder Thursday** | April 2  
Madison 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
Verona 7 p.m.

**Good Friday** | April 3  
Madison 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
Verona 7 p.m.

**Easter Sunday** | April 5  
Madison 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Verona 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m.



**YOUTH FUNDRAISERS**

**Pies, Chili & Community  
for a Good Cause**

The Chili Cook-off and Pie Auction is back! This family friendly night of intergenerational fun is a great place to meet or invite a friend. This beloved event raises money for our HS youth summer travels. We will mix and mingle, eat, and fellowship from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. before we announce the winners and begin the pie auction! In addition, throughout the night there is music and face painting for the kids!

**Buy Your Tickets Today at**  
[gsclwi.com/chili26](http://gsclwi.com/chili26)