

PASTOR'S NOTE

Too Many Cucumbers

The Reign of God is like...

In the late spring of 2020, as we began to realize that COVID work/school/life from home would continue on for the foreseeable future, my family decided to rent a plot at the local community garden. It gave us an excuse to get out of the house, feel productive, and be active. After what seemed to be an eternity of weeding a previously unkempt plot, it finally was time to plant. We had visions of tomatoes, ripe and red, beans by the bushel, peppers popping with flavor, and crisp cucumbers to refresh us in the hot summer sun.

In previous years we had grown most of these plants in our backyard. But now we had a whole plot of land dedicated to growing something. So, we filled it up. The one vegetable on our list that we had never grown before were cucumbers. How many do you really need? The seeds were small and we had a few packets, so we used them all. Who knows what might happen?

That summer every few days we'd head over to our garden to weed, water, and watch what had been planted.

Then the harvest happened. Slowly, then all at once. Every day seemed to bring in more cucumbers. Dozens of cucumbers. I don't know where they came from. We'd harvest 20-30 one day and two days later another 20-30 were ready to go! Our kitchen was covered in cucumbers! Cucumber spears, Cucumber Salad, Dill Pickles,

Bread and Butter pickles, Relish. We had more than we knew what to do with. More than we could give away.

Every time one of us came back from the garden with another bushel full of cucumbers, we would just laugh at the ridiculousness of it all.

It reminds me of the parables that Jesus told his disciples. Parables of joy at the abundance of God and the in-breaking reign of grace. I heard the Spirit whispering in those days,

The kingdom of God is like a woman who went to the garden to pick her vegetables and found that she had dozens of cucumbers. So many that she laughed with joy at how many there were. More than she needed. More than her neighbors wanted. More than enough to fill her with joy and surprise.

You'll notice that I haven't talked much about the tomatoes, beans, and peppers we planted. Some of which did okay, some of which did not. But the cucumbers brought us such joy. In God's reign we expect to be surprised by the places and ways that God's abundance shows up. And when God shows up, surely we will be filled with joy.



Your partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Ben

Pastor Ben Sheets

Baptisms

Meredith James Resop, child of Alyssa and Austin Resop. Baptized on June 14, 2026.

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to the family of Sandra Bandt of Madison, WI who died on May 29, 2026.

Christian Sympathy to Mike Naumann and family, and Sarah Simon and family, on the death of Mike's brother/Sarah's uncle Mark Naumann of Pittsburgh, PA who died on June 5, 2026.

Weddings

Congratulations to Kaylee Krantz and Jared Grassman who were married on June 27, 2026.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

How does VBS Happen?

VBS happens because of an amazing community willing to serve and show up consistently. This year, our CYF interns, along with 20 middle and high school volunteers, served alongside wise adult leaders and former interns to help each of our 65 young campers feel seen, known and loved.

They learned to do it because they first experienced it themselves. They experienced it through AMPED guides, High School leaders, church school teachers, and CYF staff. Having received that kind of attention and care themselves, they're ready to offer it to the next generation. **This is discipleship!**

Thank you for all who gave their time to make VBS possible. We couldn't do it without you!

PASTORAL CARE

Hospital or Rehab Stay?

If you, or another church member you know, becomes hospitalized or needs a stay at a rehabilitation facility, please contact our church office at 608-271-6633. Our pastoral staff would like to reach out to offer care.

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD

May 2026 Update

Statement of Activity - General Fund

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 2,216,041	\$ 2,092,138	\$ 123,903
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(2,095,696)	(2,063,408)	(32,288)
Revenue less Expenses	\$ 120,345	\$ 28,730	\$ 91,615

Cash Balances

	May 2026	June Fiscal YR 2025	YTD	Change
General Fund	\$ 665,842	\$ 574,578	\$ 91,264	
Board Designated Reserves	609,245	-	609,245	
Donor/Grant Restricted Funds	844,261	362,559	481,702	
Capital Campaign Projects Fund	1,908	27,497	(25,589)	
Columbarium	108,458	91,840	16,618	
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 2,229,714	\$ 1,056,474	\$ 1,173,240	



OUTREACH

Meet the Good Shepherd Book Barn

Did you know that according to the National Center for Education Statistics, 54 % of U.S. adults read below the equivalent of a sixth-grade level and 64% of our fourth graders do not read proficiently?

This is a multigenerational challenge that impacts all of us and is linked to critical concerns like economic growth, public health, community safety and civic engagement. Last October during Trunk or Treat, to address literacy needs and encourage family engagement, the Book Barn was created. New free books were distributed to children and their families as they attended this fun community event. What does all this information have to do with You? Lots! If you either love to read, are passionate about reading to others, or are looking for another way to help support outreach and welcoming opportunities at GSLC, then this is for you! We need new or almost new books for children, from early childhood up to young adult. You may drop these books off any time in the donation areas at either campus in the bins that are labeled Book Barn. You can also assist with the Book Barn by helping with set up, or by inviting children and adults to come pick a book to take home to read and return, or perhaps even sitting down on a book blanket with a curious child and read aloud a book or two! Endless opportunities abound when the Book Barn is out on the town!

Explore Summer at gslcwi.com/summer



Rise Up Night

Tuesday, July 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Emily Gold | egold@gslcwi.com

Verona Campus

For incoming 1st- 5th graders. Activities, dinner and devotions with Emily and the interns! Register at gslcwi.com/summer.



Middle School Fun Night

Wednesday, July 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Sarah Iverson | siverson@gslcwi.com

Verona Campus

Gather around silliness, storytelling, and stillness with other middle schoolers at Verona Campus. Register at gslcwi.com/summer.



Bingo Night

Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Ronda Beggs | rbeggs@gslcwi.com

Verona Campus Parking Lot

Fun for all ages as we host a Bingo night with prizes and snacks from the Holy COW under the Verona tent.



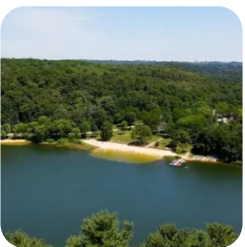
All Family Campfire Worship

Friday, July 24 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Emily Gold | egold@gslcwi.com

Verona Campus

Bring your families and join us for a beautiful sunset fire service as we connect, create memories, and share in the light of the Lord.



Family Outing @ Gov. Dodge

Sunday, July 26 – All Day!

Holly Simon | hollyjsimon@gmail.com

Governor Dodge State Park | Dodgeville, WI

Join friends and your new friends at Gov. Dodge State Park - Cox Hollow Beach! The fun starts when you get there! Bring your family, sunscreen and sense of adventure.



Camp Create-It

July 27-30 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Emily Gold | egold@gslcwi.com

Verona Campus

Featuring music, cooking and painting. Explore your God-given creative gifts and use those gifts to glorify Jesus. Register at gslcwi.com/summer.

MUSIC MONDAYS

Two More Concerts to Enjoy

Join us for the remaining Music Monday concerts at the Madison Campus, featuring delicious food from Holy Cow starting at 5 p.m. Don't miss out on these fantastic performances!

July 20 – Acoustic Collective

August 17 – All That Jazz

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sing with Summer Choir

Love to sing? Join the Summer Choir on July 19th and August 16th. The Summer Choir is for all vocal musicians to come and learn/relearn a piece of music the hour before service and sing at the 9 a.m. service that day.

Meet at 8 a.m. in the sanctuary and Interim Choir Director Katie Gerlach will have music for you.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Calling All Cars! Generous Jalopy Car Show on August 22

There will be fundraiser and car show on August 22nd, to benefit Generous Jalopy – a ministry that provides vehicles for people in need across Dane County. The Car Show will be from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Madison Campus parking lot. Food will be served from the Holy COW from 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. If you have a classic or antique car and would like to put it in the show, you can sign up for free at: gslcwi.com/jalopy26.

SERVICE

Food Pantry Garden Help

Heavy rain has brought weeds to the Food Pantry Garden! We need extra help so we can keep providing fresh veggies for our pantry clients. Help on Sundays from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. or Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

WORSHIP

Sponsor Altar Flowers

You can Sign up on the Altar Flower Chart at the Madison Campus or online through our website at gslcwi.com/altarflowers. The cost when ordering online is \$62. You can also send an email to Judy at jhoard@gslcwi.com. The cost of each bouquet is \$60. If paying by check please make it payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with "altar flowers" in the memo line.



Madison Campus (MAILING ADDRESS)

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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

Reminder: One Worship on Sunday, July 5 at Verona | 10 a.m.

2026 Annual Meeting August 9 | Madison Campus

The Meeting will follow a Combined 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service and commence around 10:30 a.m.

Proposed Budget Presentation

July 12 | Verona Campus
11:15 a.m.

Q&A Session About Proposed Budget

July 19 | Verona Campus
11:15 a.m.

Annual Report and Budget Overviews Available in Print and Online

Starting July 26

Visit gslcwi.com/annual26 to view reports

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