



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Christmas at Good Shepherd

We are grateful to gather in-person and online to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We will be offering candlelight Christmas Eve services at both of our locations with a streaming option available for each campus as well.

Christmas greetings to you all in the name of our coming Savior, Jesus Christ!

Madison Campus

🖥️ 4:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Verona Campus

🖥️ 10:30 a.m.
4:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.

🖥️ Livestream Available



Dear friends,

Advent time is not our time, and it is not yet Christmas time. Advent is a time that does not match our January-December calendar (as our church calendar starts in December), and the season encourages us to slow down for four weeks even as we hustle towards the joys of Christmas. But, true to the nature of faith itself, the season of Advent this year begins with stories about the end times and then moves backward throughout the month of December to help us “unwrap” the amazing gift that God gave the World in God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

**FOR
SUCH
A TIME
AS THIS**
ADVENT 2021

“For Such a Time as This”, our theme for this Advent season, speaks to our present realities as well as our future hopes and prayers. The story of Jesus Christ’s life, death and resurrection happened in a certain place and a certain time. God intervened in human history in the finite life of Jesus that, then, unleashed the infinite power of God’s grace and mercy across all time and space! And that story, the story of Jesus, began back in the Old Testament, where the prophets continually pulled back the veil on God’s saving actions in and across time.

Jesus’ birth came at a specific time but the impact of his birth, life, death and resurrection, continue to reverberate across the ages! For the first time since 2019 we will gather in the Good Shepherd sanctuaries to witness the birth of Christ, not just 2000 years ago, but again today! Jesus’ humble beginnings happen repeatedly for those who believe. “For Such a Time as This...” gather with us throughout this Advent season as we explore, remember, pray, sing and celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus not just in that stable so long ago, but in our hearts, our lives, our homes and our world even now.

God’s peace,
Pastor Chris Enstad | Lead Pastor

Baptisms

Chase Walter Medlin, child of Brian & Stephanie Medlin, baptized on November 14, 2021.

Jordan Miles Hanna, child of Whitney & Mike Hanna, baptized on November 14, 2021.

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to Mary Birmingham and family on the death of her brother, Gregory John Birmingham, of Beltsville, MN, who died on November 7, 2021.

Christian Sympathy to Julie Trinkner and family on the death of her father, James Hesselman, of Greenfield, WI, who died on November 8, 2021.

Christian Sympathy to Rick Thomas and family on the death of his aunt, Ruth Josiger, of Wausau, WI, who died on November 2, 2021.

Christian Sympathy to the family of Rose Lundberg. Rose died in Scottsdale, AZ on November 16, 2021.



Over 640 Meals Served at Thanksgiving-To-Go!

Good Shepherd would like to give thanks to everyone who made our second Thanksgiving-to-Go a success! 95 volunteers helped serve 644 meals using 380 lbs. of Turkey. Happy Thanksgiving! #turkeyday #grateful

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD September 2021 Update

Statement of Activity - General Fund

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 533,193	\$ 580,467	\$ (47,274)
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(551,857)	(598,958)	47,101
Mortgage Principal - General Fund	(46,671)	(36,682)	(9,989)
Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage	\$ (65,335)	\$ (55,173)	\$ (10,162)

Cash Balances

	October 2021	June 2021	YTD Change
General Fund	\$ 480,128	\$ 528,060	\$ (47,932)
Board Designated Funds	555,862	643,169	(87,307)
Restricted Funds	404,371	505,107	(100,736)
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 1,440,361	\$ 1,676,336	\$ (235,975)

Mortgage Balance

	October 2021	June 2021	YTD Change
Loan Balance Outstanding	\$ 1,627,550	\$ 1,761,942	\$ (134,396)



You're Invited...to Give Thanks!

Thank you to all Good Shepherd members who have accepted the invitation to give by turning in their 2022 Intent to Give cards!

So far, we have received **266 cards** and **45%** of them indicate an increase in generosity for next year. In fact, our expected increase next year from all recurring givers is **\$5.60** per week. So far, we are **75%** of the way to reaching our goal of increasing our giving by \$100,000 next year.

Did you know you can donate stocks to Good Shepherd?

Donating stock directly to charity is one of the most tax-smart ways to give. By donating stock that has appreciated for more than a year, you are actually giving more than if you sold the stock and then made a cash donation. The reason is simple: avoiding capital gains taxes. If you donate the stock directly to Good Shepherd, there's no capital gains tax to pay. To learn more about this giving method, please call Diane Wenzel at (608) 640-4903 or email accounting@gsclwi.com.

Congratulations

Congratulations to church staff member Donna Maysack on the birth of her first grandchild, Maverick, who was born on October 24, 2021

ADVENT 2021

An Invitation to Sabbath

By Pastor Dara Schuller-Hanson



This past summer, I was able to be a part of a Clergy Renewal Program at Holy Wisdom Monastery.

I spent 10 days praying the hours, contemplative listening, in discernment activities, in a day of silence and most of all just resting in God. My soul was longing for an experience such as this and I was so grateful for the time to actually do it. I needed the reminder that God loves me just as much when I am at rest as when I am productive and busy. *Maybe you do too?*

This Advent, we are inviting the Good Shepherd community to consider this kind of rest and renewal through the practice of Sabbath. Sabbath is an ancient practice of “holy rest” and is an invitation to spend time with God. While we hear a lot about self-care in our culture, the idea of giving time to rest in God isn’t something we talk about much. You see, Sabbath is a gift from God to us. It is a time set aside to just be, just like God when God took the 7th day off in the formation of Creation. God rested and so can we!

But Sabbath takes practice. It is the opposite of what our accomplishment-driven world tells us to do, so it might feel weird at first. The main tenets of Sabbath are rest, worship and community. So this Advent season, will you try it out with us? You are invited to set aside an hour, an afternoon or a whole day to practice Sabbath. You can commit to this yourself or with your whole household.

Theologian Walter Bruggeman described Sabbath as “an act of both resistance and alternative. It is resistance because it is a visible insistence that our lives are not defined by the production and consumption of commodity goods.” And it is an alternative to the demands of

Ways to Engage with the Sabbath

- Decide on an hour or more a week that you are going to practice Sabbath and commit to it for the season of Advent.
- Write down things you won’t be doing during your Sabbath time.
Examples: Set aside screens and devices; don’t do chores; don’t check emails.
- Brainstorm things you can do or would like to try. For example: take a nap, play a game, read a book, spend time outside, pray, read the Bible.
- Come to worship at Good Shepherd - we will be incorporating Sabbath reminders into our worship and life together.

this world replaced by, “the awareness and practice of the claim that we are situated on the receiving end of the gifts of God.”

Sabbath is something God needed and so do we. It is a gift from God to us that shows us that our lives don’t depend on endless productivity or consumerism or doing something all the time. We are invited to rest in the love of God not because of what we do, but because of who we are, beloved children of God who loves us so much that God sent Jesus into the world for us. Join us as we celebrate Sabbath this Advent!

Find More Resources for your Sabbath
gslcwi.com/sabbath

Sign Up Today to be an Altar Flower Sponsor for 2022

You can sign up to sponsor an altar flower bouquet for Sundays in December AND Sundays in 2022 in memory or in honor of a loved one, or for a special occasion. The bouquets are a beautiful addition to the altar at both campuses! You can sign up on the Altar Flower Chart at the Madison Campus by the entrance to the office. You can also sign up online at gslcwi.com/flowers OR sending an email to Judy at jhoard@gslcwi.com. Each arrangement is \$50. When paying by check, please make it payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church with “altar flowers” in the memo line.



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Madison, WI
Permit No. 1265

Advent Event Highlights | gslcwi.com/events



CREATION

Art in the Dark

Monday, December 6th
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. | Verona Campus

You're invited to join the Good Shepherd community in creating Art for Advent. Whether you are an experienced artist or just like to draw stick figures, all ages are invited to join us for an evening of creating art! During this season of Advent waiting and this time of busy preparations for Christmas, we will come together to pause and reflect on the gifts of God for us in the birth of Jesus Christ through artwork. Come and create something with us!



REFLECTION

Blue Christmas

Thursday, December 16th
7:00 p.m. | Madison Campus

We're acknowledging that the holiday season isn't happy and bright for everyone. There are those in our faith community who have known sorrow, pain and loss this year. And given the pandemic that we're experiencing together, we all know a somber feeling this season. Welcome to Blue Christmas worship, where we offer our losses and sadness to God, trusting that God's light still shines in the darkness.



STORYTELLING

Christmas Around the Tree

Sunday, December 19th
7:00 p.m. | Verona Campus

Everyone is welcome to this beloved Good Shepherd tradition. A cozy gathering of readings, song, scripture and stillness. Kids are invited to wear their PJ's. Everyone is invited to draw in close and take a holy pause before heading into a week of preparations. This tradition is special and sacred for all ages.