



PASTOR'S NOTE

Embracing Our Vision

Living into the Strategic Plan as a Congregation this Fall

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we step into the crispness of September, the time has come for us to reflect, connect and look forward to a future filled with continuing growth and fulfillment. The strategic plan that the Good Shepherd Board adopted in 2022 has been a guiding star in our emergence from the enforced solitude of the pandemic to a renewed appreciation and gratitude for community. The plan seeks to align our efforts and help us enhance every aspect of our work together. It is both a mission and a commitment to living a life of Welcome, Forgiveness and Service.

Enhancing Welcome

In response to the sacred hospitality of Christ's love, our doors are open to all people. We are committed to creating an environment that radiates welcome and acceptance. Whether it's your first time here or you've been a member for decades, you are an integral part of our family. Our Welcome Statement is a radical statement of reconciliation and love for all people. We will continue to practice, learn and grow our understanding of welcome even as the world experiences deeper divisions.

Enhancing Worship

Worship is the heart and soul of our church. Together, we have been exploring new dimensions of praise, engaging with scripture, and celebrating the Holy Spirit in our lives. The strategic plan places a renewed focus on music, liturgy and creative expressions of faith in response to God's grace; making our worship experience even more vibrant and meaningful.

Building Relationships

Connection is at the core of our strategic plan. We aim to strengthen bonds within our congregation and extend our hand in fellowship to the wider community. Outreach programs, volunteer initiatives and interfaith dialogues have brought us closer to our neighbors and allowed us to share God's love more broadly. As Pastor Dara, Rick Thomas and our dedicated volunteer teams grow the alignment and capabilities of our outreach and partnership ministries, we will see even more opportunities for service in Jesus' name.

Fostering Belonging

We are not just members of Good Shepherd; we are siblings in Jesus Christ. Through small groups, fellowship events, and multiple ministries of compassion and care, we are nurturing a sense of belonging that transcends Sunday mornings and becomes an integral part of our daily lives.

Developing Leadership

Our staff and lay leaders are the backbone of our community. With targeted training and thoughtful mentorship, we are seeking to elevate leadership skills and empower all who seek to serve with passion and purpose.

Cultivating Spiritual Growth

Our spiritual journey is not bound by age or life stage. We are committed to enhancing the spiritual growth of all our members, from the youngest child to the wisest elder. We are piloting new programs and harnessing resources to help us explore faith in a deeply personal and transformative way.

This Fall, let us renew our dedication to our strategic vision. Together, we are not just a congregation but a living testament to God's love and grace. Your support, prayers and active participation make all this possible. May this September be a month of reflection, growth and joy in our shared mission. I look forward to walking this path with you.

See you at church!



Pastor Chris Enstad



READ THE FULL STRATEGIC PLAN

Visit gslcwi.com/strategicplan

Weddings

Congratulations to this recently married couple in our congregation: Kathryn Anderson and Christopher Pophal married on August 12, 2023

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to Cathy Peercy on the death of her sister-in-law Barbara Peercy Ross in Lexington, KY who died on July 29, 2023.

Christian Sympathy to Sue Lewis and her family on the death of her husband Gary Lewis of Madison, WI who died on August 7, 2023.

Christian Sympathy to the family of Leah Elmer of Madison, WI, who died on August 7, 2023.

Christian Sympathy to Jeff Spielman and family on the death of his father, Rodney Spielman of Ixonia, WI who died on August 15, 2023.

Christian Sympathy to Ralph Patterson and family on the death of his mother, Caroline Patterson of Beaver Dam, WI who died on August 16, 2023.

Seeking Middle & High School Ministry Coordinator

If you love working with youth and nurturing lifelong relationships, consider applying. This position will work closely with the Director of Spiritual Development and the Children, Youth & Family team to coordinate and implement the administrative details of middle school and high school ministry programs. Check out the job description at gslcwi.com/jobs, and contact Sarah Iverson or Rick Blum with any questions.

Little Blessings Hiring 4K Teacher

Do you have a great work ethic, a love for children and a passion for watching them grow? Little Blessings Preschool in Verona has an immediate opening for a 4K teacher. Eligible candidates must have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education (ECE), or in Elementary Education, including 18 credits specifically related to ECE. Interested? Please email Director of Administration Rick Blum or call him at (608) 640-4902.

The Clothes Closet Needs Your Help

The Clothes Closet provides new clothes every month to kids who live in our neighborhood. Use of the Clothes Closet has increased the last few months. We regularly serve 25 – 40 children each week with sizes infant through 18-20. As with all things, the cost of shoes and clothing has increased, especially with the larger sizes. Your help is needed in order to provide for these items. Thank you for your support! For more information please contact Judy Hoard at jhoard@gslcwi.com or 608-271-6633.

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD

July 2023 Update

Statement of Activity - General Fund

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 145,147	\$ 180,425	\$ (35,278)
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(150,231)	(187,829)	37,598
Mortgage Principal - General Fund	(9,749)	-	(9,749)
Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage	\$ (14,833)	\$ (7,404)	\$ (7,429)

Cash Balances

	July 2023	June Fiscal YR 2023	YTD	Change
General Fund	\$ 622,874	\$ 607,582	\$ 15,292	
Board Designated Funds	69,218	112,154	(42,936)	
Restricted Funds	353,495	384,576	(31,081)	
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 1,045,587	\$ 1,104,312	\$ (58,725)	

Mortgage Balance

	July 2023	June Fiscal YR 2023	YTD	Change
Loan Balance Outstanding	\$ 628,523	\$ 665,095	\$ (36,572)	



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Tables of Eight Returns this Fall

This opportunity is for members of all ages and stages of life. When you sign up you are paired with 7 other folks. Together you arrange times for you all to share a dinner 6 times throughout the year - at home or at a restaurant. Learn more at gslcwi.com/tables.



HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP

Discovering Reverence

The theme for this year's High School trip to South Dakota was "Reverence". Throughout the trip, students wrote stories about how they were experiencing this concept through the places and faces they met. They are all available on the Good Shepherd website.

Read stories from the trip at gslcwi.com/reverence



MEN'S MINISTRY TRIP

Refreshing Mind, Body and Soul

A dozen men from Good Shepherd made their way to the Boundary Waters for a time to connect with God, nature and one another. Each of the 12 members of our group brought different life experiences, different canoeing experiences, different camping experiences and different joys and burdens.

Read a story on the trip at gslcwi.com/stories



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women of the ELCA Gathering

On Saturday, October 7 at Midvale Community Lutheran Church in Madison, the Women of the ELCA will gather for their biennial event. This event is open to all women and their friends. Learn more at scsw-elca.org/2023gathering/



Music Ministries Back in Action this Month

Good Shepherd's Music Ministry ramps up to full force this month. Come join us for another exciting season by sharing your talents through music! Learn more about Children's Music opportunities with Music Coordinator Matt Skibo, join a worship band at Verona, or join the choir or play handbells in Madison. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 6. Consider joining one of these fun music opportunities! Visit gslcwi.com/worship/music-arts/ for more information or connect with Jared Stellmacher, Director of Worship and Music.

September 9-16

Kindness

Week

Kindness is powerful.
Kindness transforms lives.

Learn about all these opportunities and more including daily challenges:

gslcwi.com/kindness



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
Good Shepherd Dash
Join Team World Vision members running or walking from Madison Campus to Verona Campus as they raise money for clean water. The Holy COW will be at the finish line!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
God's Work Our Hands Sunday
Join with members of the wider church (ELCA) as we serve God in our community with many opportunities for service projects before and after worship!



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
Kindness Night
Acts of kindness for our neighbors including delivering Adopt-a-school Teacher/staff cards and gifts and serving in a Garden clean-up!



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
Quilt Ingathering
Join the team of Good Shepherd quilters as we deliver the latest round of quilts to the train station as they are sent to places in need around the world!

Children's Ministry

Church School at Every Service

We are offering church school at **all worship services** this year: 9:00 Madison, 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Verona. Church school begins Sunday, September 17 and goes through May 2024. For more information or to register, visit: gslcwi.com/children

Raise a Joyful Noise with Kids Choirs

Children's Choir at Good Shepherd is starting soon! Madison rehearsals begin Sunday, September 17 after the 9 a.m. service. In Verona, they start Sunday, September 24 following the 10 a.m. service. Rehearsals will last 30 minutes and will be held every other week (twice a month) going forward. Children's Choir is open to all K-5th graders. Contact Music Coordinator Matt Skibo at mkskibo@gslcwi.com with any questions.

Playgroup Returns this Month

Connect at Playgroup starting Tuesday, September 5, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Verona campus gym. Caregivers with children ages 0-3 are invited to join us for Playgroup on Tuesday mornings. Enjoy group story time, rhymes, songs and time for caregivers and babies to socialize! Contact Emily Gold with questions at egold@gslcwi.com.

Baptism Class on September 28

Our next baptism class will be held Thursday, September 28 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. This class is for individuals interested in baptism here at Good Shepherd. To register or for more information, contact Emily Gold at egold@gslcwi.com or visit our website: gslcwi.com/children

Middle, High School & College Ministry

Register for Amped Confirmation

AMPED Confirmation begins September 20. This program is designed for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students to gather each Wednesday and practice being in a community that grows, serves and fellowships together. Relationally based, this ministry provides a great foundation for living in Christian community, asking good questions and faithfully seeking answers. As a reminder, you must register for this program each year at gslcwi.com/amped

Music Opportunities for Amped Students

Amped Music will have an informational meeting at the Amped Family Night on Wednesday, September 20. Musicians of all ability levels are welcome! For more information on Amped, please contact Sarah Iverson at siverson@gslcwi.com. For more info about Amped Music, please contact Matt Skibo at mkskibo@gslcwi.com.

Gatherings for High Schoolers

As fall rolls around look for continued Sunday night gatherings following 6:00 p.m. worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Also, look for the return of Before School Breakfasts, Sisterhood Dinners and the Fall Retreat. To stay connected, contact Sarah Iverson at siverson@gslcwi.com to get on the email list, or get her your phone number so you can receive text updates.

Connecting with College Students

Graduating seniors and any current college students, we would love to keep you connected to the Good Shepherd community by sending cards and small packages throughout the year to wherever you call home. To sign up, please visit gslcwi.com/connection



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

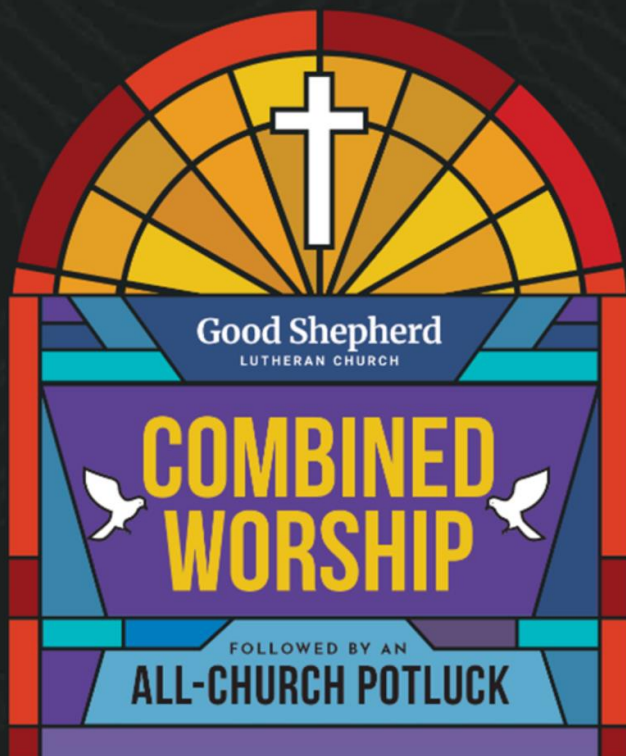
info@gslewi.com

gslewi.com

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Madison, WI
Permit No. 1265



**ONE SERVICE.
ONE LOCATION.
VERONA CAMPUS
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 3
@ 10:00 A.M.**

Potluck Details: You're invited to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share!
Hot Dogs, Brats and Burgers will be provided along with Drinks. The event is rain or shine!