

## Be Opened... to Financial Freedom

by Heather Allen  
Generosity Committee Chair



**Sunday, September 29**

Be Opened...  
to welcoming others

**Sunday, October 6**

Be Opened...  
to bring children to Jesus

**Sunday, October 13**

Be Opened...  
to giving transformationally

**Sunday, October 20**

Be Opened...  
to serving

As we transition to fall, we experience changes in our lives, both in our schedules and our routines. But what remains constant is the love that God has for us and our faith we have in God. This love and faith bring purpose to our mission at Good Shepherd to Welcome, Forgive and Serve. Through our generosity and commitment, we accomplish our mission.

An example of this commitment over the past five years has been reducing our mortgage by more than 90% through our Beyond campaigns. Many of you have been a part of this huge accomplishment. As we enter the last few months of this year, we are within reach of eliminating our mortgage. The opportunities created by being debt-free are tremendous. 122 members have already contributed to our Leading Beyond campaign to eliminate our mortgage by the end of 2024. We will soon transition to a debt-free future without a monthly mortgage payment.

But being debt-free is only part of how we live into our mission. I'm asking the congregation to **Be Opened** by participating in our upcoming Generosity campaign for 2025. Consider how much impact you can make in our capacity to share God's word through your financial giving.

If there was ever a time you've considered giving, or wondered where your contributions are going, now is the time to join a movement that will bring financial freedom to

our church. This is an exciting time to strengthen our ministries and open possibilities for our future.

In the weeks to come we will hear meaningful stories from those who have been a part of God's work. We will learn how members of our church have contributed to outreach programs and found ways to connect us to the community. We will hear stories of Good

Shepherd members serving our youth and offering support to sustain and grow our Children, Youth and Family programs. We will also hear stories of how participating in hospitality programs help transform the way members are able to feel God's

presence and bring generations together.

Please prayerfully consider what you can do to support the ministries of Good Shepherd when you receive your Generosity packet in the mail the week of October 20. This year, we will celebrate Giving Sunday on Reformation, which is Sunday, October 27.

Autumn is a season of harvest, a time to reap the rewards of our hard work and reflect on the blessings in our lives. Let us come together and Be Opened to a debt free future and fulfilling new dreams together.

With gratitude,

*Heather Allen*

And do not forget to do  
good and to share with  
others, for with such  
sacrifices God is pleased.  
**Hebrews 13:16**

SAVE THE DATE  
**Giving Sunday**  
October 27

Baptisms

September 8—Renly Ivan Schwaffel, child of Katie and Andrew Schwaffle

September 29—Callum Wesley Swords, child of Christina and Wesley Swords

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy to Sally Beinlich and family on the death of her mother, Phyllis Sakalos, of Madison, WI, who died on September 6, 2024.

Christian Sympathy to Amy Olson and family on the death of her mother, Terry Neary, of Emmetsburg, IA, who died on September 8, 2024.

Christian Sympathy to the family of Susan Sullivan of Madison, WI who died on September 14, 2024.



Thrivent Action Grant Initiative

Do you have an account with Thrivent Financial? If so, you might not know that you have two Action Grants per year (\$250x2) available for you to use to support charities of your choosing. Good Shepherd's Social Action Committee is creating a database of people who have Action Grants who might be willing to support one or more of the many activities that occur here throughout the year. If you have access to grants and would like to receive periodic emails about available projects, please email Rick Thomas at: [rthomas@gslcwi.com](mailto:rthomas@gslcwi.com) or call 608-640-4916. Even if you don't know how to apply for these grants, we can help you with the process and will walk you through the steps to fund a project.

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD  
August 2024 Update

Statement of Activity - General Fund

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 260,257	\$ 387,639	\$ (127,382)
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(382,158)	(403,139)	20,981
Mortgage Principal - General Fund	(9,902)	-	(9,902)
Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage	\$ (131,803)	\$ (15,499)	\$ (116,304)

Cash Balances

	August 2024	June Fiscal YR 2024	YTD	Change
General Fund	\$ 371,939	\$ 496,430	\$	(124,491)
Board & Mortgage Reserve Designated Fund	34,962	36,110		(1,148)
Donor/Grant Restricted Funds	178,644	228,816		(50,172)
Beyond Campaign Projects Fund	71,771	75,504		(3,733)
Columbarium	75,075	63,195		11,880
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 732,391	\$ 900,055	\$	(167,664)

Mortgage Balance

	August 2024	June Fiscal YR 2024	YTD	Change
Loan Balance Outstanding	\$ 194,288	\$ 259,172	\$	(64,884)

CHURCH STAFF UPDATES

Announcing Updated & New Staff Roles



**Courtney Meyer** | Connections Coordinator

After spending over 30 years in the fields of social welfare and education, Courtney believes in the power and significance of making connections with others. In her new staff role as Connections Coordinator, she is looking forward to continuing her commitment to connecting others within the church and surrounding communities. Look for her on Sunday mornings!



**Steve Ackerman** | Director of Media

Steve earned a media degree at FSU and an MBA at UW-Madison. He has worked in media for collegiate and pro sports teams including a 13-year stint with the Badgers. He brings extensive experience to Good Shepherd, ready to build on the Church's outreach efforts.



**Eric Holmer** | Seminarian & Media Specialist

As Eric approaches graduation from Duke Divinity School in May of 2025, he will take on new ministry roles in addition to assisting with select media projects. Eric will be serving with Youth Ministry, Adult Education and occasionally preaching on Sundays.

Blood Drive at Madison Campus October 29

Registration is now open for the next American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, October 29 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Peterson Hall at Good Shepherd's Madison Campus. To register, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: **GoodShepherdMadison**





## Learn about LGBTQ+ History

Wednesday, October 2 at 6:00 p.m.  
 Dara Schuller-Hanson | [dschuller@gslcwi.com](mailto:dschuller@gslcwi.com)  
 Madison Campus

Good Shepherd welcomes a guest speaker from OutReach to present a lecture on LGBTQ+ History & Community in Wisconsin. Follow-up events occur on October 6 in Verona and October 27 in Madison.



## Women of the ELCA Retreat

Saturday, October 5  
 Helen Sheahan | [helenswo15@gmail.com](mailto:helenswo15@gmail.com)  
 Bethany Lutheran, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Titled "Turning the World Right Side Up," this one-day retreat brings together women from churches across the state for learning, fellowship and growth.



## Fall Family Fun

Saturday, October 12 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.  
 Emily Gold | [egold@gslcwi.com](mailto:egold@gslcwi.com)  
 Eplegaarden in Fitchburg

Get together with other families from Good Shepherd, while enjoying apple and pumpkin picking, farm animals, kids play area and more!



## Music Monday Organ Concert

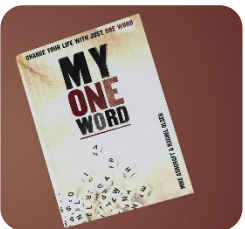
Monday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m.  
 Jared Stellmacher | [jstellmacher@gslcwi.com](mailto:jstellmacher@gslcwi.com)  
 Madison Campus

This fun and thrilling organ concert, entitled "How Can I Keep from Singing?" will feature toccatas, hymns and more followed by a reception.

## "My One Word" Book Study

Starting Wednesday, October 23 at 12 p.m.  
 Ronda Beggs | [rbeggs@gslcwi.com](mailto:rbeggs@gslcwi.com)  
 Verona Campus & Zoom

Join this new lunch hour book study based upon finding a single word that can shape your entire year. Offered both in-person and online!



## Remembering the Reformation

Sunday, October 27  
 Jared Stellmacher | [jstellmacher@gslcwi.com](mailto:jstellmacher@gslcwi.com)  
 Madison & Verona Campus

On Reformation Sunday, we celebrate the courage to question, the pursuit of truth, and the power of faith in action as we celebrate Reformation Sunday at all three worship services. We invite you to wear red at worship. Madison Campus worship will feature the Second Century Brass Quintet.



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE Learn about the Grief Support Group

If you have experienced the death of a loved one within this past year or so, you are invited to this group. We will gather as people of faith to listen with compassion and offer Christian support to one another as those living with loss. Please RSVP by October 27 to ensure enough attendees for the group. We will meet Thursdays from November 7 – 21 from 6– 8 p.m. RSVP to Pastor Sheryl Erickson at [serickson@gslcwi.com](mailto:serickson@gslcwi.com).

## ADULT EDUCATION Watch Season Four of The Chosen Together this Month

Starting on Monday, October 7, we will meet each week at 6:00 p.m. in Peterson Hall to watch the most recent season of the acclaimed series "The Chosen" – featuring a unique look at the life of Jesus and his ministry. There will also be an option to join each week on Zoom. Contact Eric Holmer [eholmer@gslcwi.com](mailto:eholmer@gslcwi.com) with any questions.

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP New Member Gathering October 27 at Verona Campus

Interested in becoming a new member or learning more about our church? Please join us for lunch and fellowship after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 27th at our Verona Campus. We'll have an informal gathering where you can learn what it means to be a member at Good Shepherd. Children welcome! RSVP to Ronda Beggs at [rbeggs@gslcwi.com](mailto:rbeggs@gslcwi.com).



## FALL KICKOFF EVENT Bouncing into the Season!

It was a Sunday to remember at the Madison and Verona Campuses as we welcomed the start of the new season and kicked off Church School. We'll see you around 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](mailto:info@gslcwi.com)  
gslcwi.com


**Sunday Worship Times**

**In-Person & Online | [gslcwi.com/live](https://gslcwi.com/live)**

9:00 a.m. Madison Campus  
10:00 a.m. Verona Campus  
6:00 p.m. Verona Campus

**WORSHIP**

# Healing Prayer Service

 Thursday, October 3 at 6:30 p.m.

 Verona Campus



**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”**  
**Matthew 11:28**

This unique service features special music and scripture readings to remind us that God is always ready to receive our worries, concerns, illnesses and heartaches. *All are welcome.*