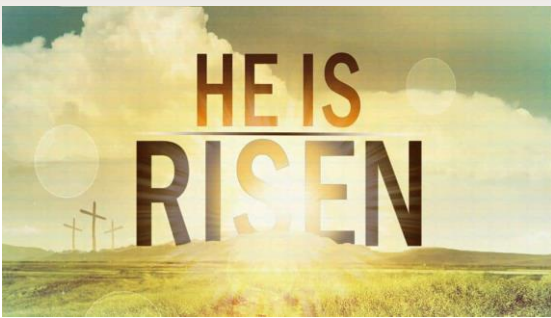


930 Edgewood Road Wausau, WI 54403  
(Change Service Requested)

April: 2021



**GATHER** in Blessings \* **GROW** in Purpose \* **GO** with Passion

APRIL 2021 . Volume 57 . Issue 4

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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**Starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have only  
one Communion pick-up from 6-7 pm  
since it will be light out.**

**HOLY WEEK:**

ONLINE WORSHIP  
AVAILABLE

**Maundy Thursday: April 1**  
**Good Friday: April 2**  
**Saturday, Easter Vigil: April 3**  
**Easter Sunday: April 4**

JOIN US FOR  
LIVE WORSHIP!

**Easter Sunday: April 4**  
**8:00 & 10:30 AM**

GSLC PARKING LOT  
RAIN OR SHINE

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR  
IF ITS NICE OUT

I love this time of the year, beloved! So many signs of new life on the horizon. March Madness on the basketball court. The opportunity to go on my outdoor hikes without being bundled up from head to toe. We have so much on the horizon to be thankful for!

This month, it is a thrill to finally be able to share with you that plans are now fully underway to return to in-person worship over the next few months. Our Re-imagining Worship Team has been so faithful and diligent in keeping us on track toward this goal by sifting through mountains of ever-changing information and recommendations. We are finalizing the metrics we will use to guide us, and signs continue to look positive at this point. We remain optimistic and hopeful that things will continue with respect to cases and vaccination numbers. Further, a meeting I attended last week with an infectious disease specialist from Advocate Aurora Health left me with the strong sense that we have acted safely and appropriately with loving our neighbors in mind this past year, which was a welcome affirmation amid all of the noise. Please know that our family of faith at Good Shepherd HAS been directly affected by COVID-19 in significant ways. It is devastating that we have had more than forty people who have suffered in varying degrees from mild to serious, including the death of a dear saint, Alice Duginske. Certainly there were more people from our congregation affected whom we simply do not know about. At the same time, I believe our decisions with respect to gatherings and activities, as difficult as they have been, have exemplified caring community by NOT spreading the virus in, through, and beyond our congregation's activities. As followers of Jesus, we have an ethical and moral responsibility to each other and to our neighbors to act with the welfare of others first and foremost in our minds. Every decision along the way has been wrenching and was never taken lightly without prayer, research and consultation. There were many sleepless nights because of the disappointment and frustration we knew would result. But despite the grind, we have always shared the same desired end-result. And now we are so close to resuming "normal." The end is in sight if we would remain diligent and continue safe practices and good choices just a little bit longer.

Our plan is to transition back into in-person gatherings beginning on Easter Sunday with outdoor services at 8am and 10:30am in our parking lot. Bring your lawn chairs and face coverings and expect to be safely distanced because we WILL be singing! In the event of inclement weather, we will remain in our vehicles. On May 2 we will resume regular Sunday morning worship with outdoor worship at 9am weekly, and the same conditions will apply with respect to seating, distancing, and face coverings. We will also continue to provide online worship for folks who would prefer to remain safer at home.

We anticipate this will be fairly temporary (apart from any new outbreak). As vaccination rates in Marathon County climb above 50% and positive tests at less than 3% or less per 100,000 people, we will transition indoors. If all goes well, we expect that will happen soon as vaccinations should be available to everyone who wants them by the end of May.

This is all such good news of great joy to come ... and I truly don't want to wait anymore, but I will do so because living fully into the present has brought unexpected gifts so far as well! I thank you for your faithful partnership and support throughout this season of the virus. Nobody really knows what we will see and experience on the other side, but my prayer is that what we have missed and lost this past year would not color and define us moving forward. Grief and lament are certainly real and valid and must be felt and experienced deeply and honestly. But all along I have continually encouraged us to lean into the present, discover the gifts of these moment, and learn from them and act on them as catalysts for the next chapter.

We're almost there and I cannot wait to experience it with you!

Hang in there ... Pastor Kemp





**East Central Synod of Wisconsin**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**Dear people of the  
East-Central Synod of Wisconsin,**

My last Covid-19 update came as we were preparing for Christmas and starting to imagine what Lent would look like; we'd made the decision to postpone the new bishop installation (and many other installations in the synod, too) because of increased risk and full ICUs.

Today, we are in Lent and beginning to mark many one-year anniversaries of the pandemic. We are getting close to Holy Week, which will be different than last year, and different from other years, too. We passed the terrible milestone of 500,000 deaths due to Covid, and while infection rates have gone down, serious illness and death continues in this country and around the world. In the midst of the reality and impact of that loss, the reality and positive impact of the vaccine is another marked difference between now and my last update in December.

The combination of anxiety, grief and genuine—but hard, at first, to recognize—hope of this time feels like Easter. It feels like Jesus meeting us like he met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, hearing our mourning and our “but we had hoped” testimonies from the past year, and revealing embodied possibilities we had not been able to fully imagine a few weeks or months ago.

Again, I commend more comprehensive sources of guidelines and recommendations to you and your Covid-planning teams, especially the Wisconsin Council of Churches. At the Conference of Bishops, we were given this resource from Ecumenical Protocols for Worship, Fellowship and Sacramental Practice as CDC-vetted benchmarks and guidelines for in-person worship: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IPNroq4of1LGqOo1gY2kexqMfNx4sYHM/view>

Here is what I am learning on this road with you:

**Make decisions based on Christian ethics and values: put the needs of the most vulnerable, first.** From the beginning, one of the burdens of this pandemic has been relentless high-stakes decision making. As if the decisions we needed to make for ourselves and our families weren't enough, many of us—pastors, deacons, and other church leaders—found ourselves wading through public health data to make informed decisions on behalf of congregations and other contexts. Guiding our analysis of that data and our decisions as Christian leaders is the Gospel truth that Jesus turns the world upside down and makes the needs of the most vulnerable among us the most important of all. Jesus also insists that our family is larger than we think—we are deeply interconnected and interdependent, and our decisions must reflect care not only for me and my household but for the greater good. These values guide us firmly toward decisions that safeguard the health and wellbeing of others, particularly others who are at high risk.

**Constant high-stakes decision making takes a toll. Your leader needs a break.** Your pastor, deacon or vicar is likely showing signs of being under extreme stress. Leaders who adapted with creativity and enthusiasm at the beginning of the pandemic are exhausted and worn down. This is not a reflection of your leader's skill, suitability for ministry, or call from God; it is a normal response to being in ministry—a caregiving, leadership position—in a crisis and, in this case, a year-long crisis. Congregations: reach out to your rostered leaders to find out what kind of sabbath renewal would be most meaningful. For some, it will be the gift of additional time off. Work together to ensure the necessary support for your leader to be away and focused on renewal: this rest time is good for the health of your leader and the health of the congregation. For some, what's most needed might be to direct continuing education or additional funds this year for coaching, counseling, spiritual direction or classes focused on health and wellbeing. Pastors who are renewed and equipped in their leadership and caregiving work will be better able to bring resources and hope to hurting people: caregivers, leaders and front-line workers in many different fields and people who fall into many different high-risk groups who are also worn down and exhausted, in need of pastoral care and healthy congregational community.

We know that after natural disasters, many clergy leave the congregations they helped lead through the disaster, and some leave the ministry, due to the trauma and burnout they have experienced. Clergy need renewal after a year of pandemic; some will be renewed by rest, sabbath and support from their congregations. Others will be renewed by change.

**There is hope.** There always was hope, of course, because we are resurrection people, and we know that death is not the end of the story, even in a pandemic, even with so much loss. The best metaphor I've heard recently is that we're very close to the end of the pandemic tunnel, but if we try to exit the tunnel early we will still crash into the walls. That may be what's making this time feel so hard—seeing that light, that better time ahead, and not being quite there yet. What gets us out of the tunnel? Getting vaccinated and encouraging others; all clergy are eligible to be vaccinated in Wisconsin, now, and a new group of high-risk people become eligible March 22. I am pretty excited that my husband, parents and I will likely all be vaccinated by sometime in April. There is joy in the hope of those small family gatherings. When it comes to public gatherings and spaces, continued and consistent use of masks and physical distancing also help us get out of the tunnel, whether we're vaccinated or not, indoors or outdoors. Continuing those mitigation methods now gets us to the end of the tunnel, sooner.

In a recent letter to rostered leaders, I shared that I believe communion can be celebrated in online worship, but that the question about online worship and communion is very different than it was in March 2020. Our focus now is not how to get online in a crisis (quickly, creatively, and well for the short term) but how to fully explore the implications and possibilities of online worship in a sustainable way. As many congregations are now gathering or preparing to gather in person, many are also thinking about how to stay connected with people who have joined online, as well as how to best keep people safe in their contexts at this stage of the pandemic. For these conversations, being church together helps tremendously. Sharing ideas, questions, worries and dreams with each other in your conference makes all of our ministry stronger.

The disciples didn't know it was Easter; they thought they knew that Jesus was dead, and that dead people stay dead. We know different, but I think this year we have some greater insight into how grim things were for the followers of Jesus in those three days. We have been walking together through this pandemic, sometimes stumbling in our grief, often holding each other up. Jesus has been walking with us and with all creation. I am grateful to walk with you in these days as your bishop.

Gratefully,

Bishop Anne Edison-Albright

# Worship & Resources

## **Good Shepherd is online:**

**YOUTUBE:** type: **GSLC Wausau WI** (Hit SUBSCRIBE and you will get notified when there are new videos)

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/gslcwausau/>

**GSLC WEBSITE:** [www.gswausau.org](http://www.gswausau.org)

**ZOOM:** Watch your email for the opportunity to join in online group chats

## **Other Resources:**

<http://elca.org/PublicHealth> Guidance resources for congregations and members from the ELCA

**LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES/ Daily Devotions:** [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS ARE HERE:** Christ in Our Home & Portals of Prayer

## **Reimagining Worship Task Force Update: Easter Sunday Worship Scheduled!**

Your church staff along with the Reimagining Worship Task Force are pleased to invite you to join us in outdoor, onsite worship at Good Shepherd on Easter Sunday at 8:00 am or 10:30 am. Whether rain or shine, we will be gathering to celebrate the resurrection. If it is very cool or rainy, we invite you to join us in your car much like we did on Christmas Eve. If it is pleasant weather, please bring your lawn chair and join us physically distanced and wearing a face covering to celebrate. We will also be offering Easter worship online for those who find it more convenient or who wish to stay safer at home. There will be no sunrise service at Sylvan Hill this season. We have sent out a more detailed letter to all members and friends announcing Easter worship and our intent to resume onsite, outside worship on a regular basis on May 2. We are looking forward to worshipping together once again.

We hope you have had the opportunity to partake in our "Lenten Soup to go" each Wednesday and Sunday during Lent. Many thanks to Kay Walters for the idea and for coordinating and cooking many of the soups! Thanks also goes to Jenny Samperesi, Carol Carmicheal, Lorraine Beyersdorff, Kay Toth, Gail Koehler and others who helped cook, package or deliver this generous gift. We hope it helped you feel a bit more connected to your church family.

We continue to assemble and deliver WeCare Bags to many of our shut-ins and our elders. Thank you to Pastor Kemp for the original idea and thank you to those who have donated Thrivent Action Team dollars or gifts to help us fill the bags. Thank you to Jenn Tryba who has shopped for our bags several times and thanks to Cari Logemann who donated handmade soaps and the Bartelt Family for the maple syrup that was enjoyed in our December bags and the prayer beads that were assembled by Kylie Miles-Kroening for our February bags. Special thanks goes to Paul and JoAnn Grewe who have faithfully assembled the bags and to all those who have helped deliver the bags. Our most recent bags contained cards and bookmarks made by our confirmation students, small prayer shawls made by Kartika and Angie and treats purchased with financial support from our Endowment Fund. If you would like to donate small items or help deliver bags, please contact MJ Horvat at 715-205-9195.

We are happy to hear that so many of our friends and members have received their vaccination against Covid-19. Your parish nurses have written an article on the importance of vaccination and continue to encourage all those who are eligible to be vaccinated when it is their turn. We also encourage those of you who fall into the CDC classification of vulnerable persons, to avoid large gatherings until you are fully vaccinated. Here at GSLC we will continue to wear face coverings and stay physically distanced until the CDC recommendations change. Please encourage each other to stay safe through handwashing, physical distancing and the wearing of face coverings and by getting vaccinated. If you need help finding a location where you can be vaccinated or need a ride to a vaccination site, please contact Angie and leave your name and phone number. We will return your call and try to provide you the help you need.

## **Confirmation Update**

We are pleased to resume confirmation with our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. At the present time, most of our activities will be done via Zoom. Students are expected to watch either or both our Wednesday evening or Sunday online worship service weekly and answer questions about the service provided by Pastor Kemp, join in weekly Zoom meetings led by Tim Holcomb and participate in various service activities coordinated by MJ Horvat. Our 8th grade students will also be working on their faith statement and reading and providing a written review on the gospel of Mark in preparation for their affirmation of baptism (confirmation) on May 16th. If you have a student or friend in 6th, 7th or 8th grade who has not been contacted but would like to participate in confirmation, please have them leave a message with the church office and we will return their call. It is not too late to join! We are happy to see the faces of our young folks even if it is on Zoom! Thank you for your patience and for encouraging your student's participation.

**We are excited to join the congregations of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin in celebrating**

**The Installation of our new bishop  
Rev. Anne Edison-Albright  
Sunday, April 11 at 10:30 AM**

**Many of our GS members will be assisting with worship.**

**The service will be live-streamed and the link will be provided.**

**We can all help!**

**Fabric in the colors of blue, red & purple are needed for artistic decoration. The fabric need not be new. Size and style do not matter. Fabric will not be returned as it will be cut for various uses.**

**Deadline: MUST BE AT GSLC BY WED. 3-31-21**



A brief phone call from Barb Madden, heartsick after her prayer beads accidentally broke, wondered what she might do to get another set.

“You see” she said, “They have helped me keep my faith as I have been battling with the effects of several rounds of cancer. I just love being able to say the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostle’s Creed, the 10 Commandments and pray for loved ones.”

She is so grateful to the crafters and deliverers of the “We Care Packages” for thinking of her! 😊

## SPRING YARD CLEANUP

Saturday, April 24  
8:30-2:00 pm

Lunch will be served  
Contact Marty to help  
715-301-3975

Rain Date: Sat. May 1



To:

Good Shepherds Staff and  
The Care Package Team.

I wants to say thank  
you for remembering me  
during this difficult time  
I'm so pleased & happy  
to belong to such Caring  
Church & Congregation.  
What a Blessing for you  
all. See you soon I hope

Blessings for all

Darlene Oerens

Thank You  
for the Mug  
& goodies so  
appreciated.

## From your Parish Nurses APRIL

It is hard to imagine a time when we didn't know COVID-19 existed. Now when people say, "virus," we know what they mean. The impact of COVID-19 on our lives, our activities, and our freedom has affected us all. We all want everyone in our community to be safe and get back to hugging our families, attending church and other large group activities in person. To achieve our goal of returning to some form of normalcy in our everyday life we need to come together and use all the tools we have available to stop the pandemic. Those tools include wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, washing your hands frequently, and **getting vaccinated**.

Each state has been given the task of the vaccinating its citizens and the process is happening in our area. The CDC on 2/26/21 stated 55,220,364 vaccines have been given. Anthony Fauci, MD director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases states, he was watching the vaccine approval process like a hawk and that it was done in an entirely appropriate manner. He stated the application of extraordinary scientific advances and the billions of dollars to pre-purchase vaccines provided for a quick development of the vaccines.

Covid-19 vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19. All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19. Based on what is known about vaccines for other diseases and early data from clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. The most common vaccine side effects are pain in the arm where you get the shot, feeling tired, headache, body aches, chills and fever. Getting COVID-19 may offer some natural protection, known as immunity. Current evidence suggests that reinfection with virus that causes COVID-19 is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection. However, experts don't know for sure how long this protection lasts, and the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. **COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an antibody (immune system) response without having to experience sickness.**

Doctor Fauci states, that if enough people decide not to get vaccinated, we will not reach that protective umbrella of herd immunity, and this infection will always be a threat in society.

Information for this newsletter is from the CDC and an article in Nutrition Action Health Letter Center for Science in the Public Interest.

CDC (centers for disease control) is the nation's health protection agency.

CDC guidelines can be found at [cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19)

Biotechnology Innovation Organization: <https://www.covidvaccinefacts.org/>

PhRMA: <https://www.phrma.org/Coronavirus>

Wisconsin Immunization Advocacy Coalition: <http://www.cwag.org/>

**"Love your neighbor as yourself," Mark 12:31**

*Your Parish Nurses,  
Barb & Mary*

930 EDGEWOOD RD  
WAUSAU, WI 54403  
(715) 675.1997  
info@gswausau.org  
www.gswausau.org

We are offering online  
worship services  
Released for:

**Sundays  
Wednesdays**

**See page 1 for  
Holy week schedule**

go to  
GSLC Wausau WI on Youtube,  
www.gswausau.org  
Facebook

**(they remain available at  
our youtube channel)**

### STAFF

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#### Barb Denfeld

#### Mary Omernik

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**Cory Toth LaPointe**  
Treasurer

## APRIL Birthdays

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1	Michael Selby	21	Pam Daigle
2	Anne Krueger		Dolores Zimmerman
3	Camden Majewski	22	Stella Boettcher
5	Susan Jirgl		Susan Gering
	Evelyn Trapp	23	Tyler Beyersdorff
6	Brandt Schreiber		Christian Boulanger
7	Cody Beyersdorff		Pastor Kemp Jones
	Gary Jarntowski		Helen Vance
	Tara Krezine	24	Ali Ramthun
8	Katelynn Hayes	25	Jan Bootz-Dittmar
9	Kerri Stapleton		Annette Lauby
11	Katelyn Leopold		John Sickels
12	Thomas Cloutier	26	Keith Laszewski
	Brenda Bargender		Emily Sickels
16	Jenny Glovinski	27	Jennifer Samperisi
	Stephanie Martell	28	Chad Majewski
17	Luke Gallagher		Karen Lakus
20	Joseph Burch		Blake Waldinger
	Bev Korpita	30	Dale Anderson
	Chris Petterson		Kaitlynn Bargender
			Jarret Miles-Kroening

## APRIL Anniversaries



11	Richard & Arlene Henke
	James & Kay Walters
15	Dave & Brenda Blaubach
28	John & Michelle Ellenbecker



## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau WI

Church Council meeting minutes

February 9, 2021

Socially distanced via Zoom online

**Call to Order** –6:34 pm \*Present: Pastor Kemp, Josh, Brad, Cory, Chery, Shelly, Tony, Heidi, Jenny, M. J., Steve, Geri, Paul [all]

**Gathering Litany** – Pastor Kemp

### God's Word

- Devotional time, Pastor Kemp – Reading from 1917 Common Book of Service; Installation of Church Council – Comparison and contrast with today; The Church moves forward [February – Paul]
- Sharing how you have seen God at work lately – ALL

### Review (a)

- Agenda review - M. J. / Steve – APPROVED
- Minutes review – Heidi / Shelly – amended 'Returning to In-Person Worship' seminar attended by M.J. and Pastor Kemp - APPROVED

### Elections of Officers and Installation

- Call for nomination of candidates from the floor – and second call for nominations
- A MOTION was proffered by Geri that Council accept the slate of candidates including Josh for President, Brad for Vice President and Paul for Secretary. Seconded by Cheryl – APPROVED unanimously
- The 2021 GSLC Council and officers was installed
- Schedule for Council meeting devotions was discussed

### Review (b)

- Treasurer / Financial Report – Cory - (January income was \$18,883 expenses were \$27,859. We transferred \$2,737 of funds so the total net income was (\$9,239.) Current reserves are \$18,628 in the general fund, \$15,820 in the building fund, and \$13,248 in work of the church.) 2021 PPP application will be completed this week. PPP proceeds are expected to be lower than 2020. We must communicate the continuing need to our congregation. Josh will compose a reminder video for distribution. - Steve / Jenny APPROVED

### Our Response to the Word

(old business)

- **"We Care project" update** - Recipients of previous 'We-Care' gifts have expressed it's meaningfulness. The Lenten gifts will be themed toward comfort and connection and will be delivered by councilmembers to about 45 members whose physical presence is missed. Special thanks to Thrivent and the GSLC Endowment fund for support, and to M.J. for her leadership.
- **Drive-Up Communion, brief update** – Despite bitter cold, during the "arctic blast" we continued to commune ~6 people each Wednesday and ~3 people each Sunday morning. We are testing pre-packaged host & wine.

(new business)

- **Evangelism in the era of social media** - The Pandemic has driven a seeking for alternative, safe, distanced forms of Worship, many of which take advantage of social-media conduits and recorded digital delivery. GSLC now regularly includes people from as far as Northern California, Kentucky & Sweden in worship. It was cited that the average Lutheran evangelizes 1 person every 40 years. Many people during Covid find themselves with extra time and a longing for social interaction. It was recognized that this moment is an unprecedented opportunity for the GSLC family to easily evangelize simply by learning how to share and "like" GSLC messages via social media.
- **Changing nature of "member"ship in a post "socially distanced" world** – Related to the prior topic, it has become obvious that our prior conception of who is a "member" of GSLC as someone who is consistently physically present no longer suits the reality. We worship alongside some people who are seldom or never in the physical building. Many among us spend time during Winter in warmer climates, and during Summer 'Up-North.' Labelling those who frequent the church building as "members" excludes those who do not or cannot, and creates an 'us / them' view which diametrically opposes Christ's message. Council will seek to re-define and apply nonexclusive language to our expanding GSLC family.

#### Action Items:

- ✓ Seek, find, enjoy and use GSLC social media resources. Learn to share, comment, and 'like' items you find.
- ✓ Contact M.J. to help with the Lenten round of "We Care" packages.

### Prayers of the Church / Lord's Prayer

**Sending** (motion to adjourn) Brad / Geri PASSED Adjournment 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Grewe, GSLC Secretary

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: THANK YOU!!**

Good Shepherd wants to express appreciation to all Thrivent members who have directed their choice dollars towards Good Shepherd. These designated funds have assisted us in the missions that we are called to carry out as we GATHER, GROW AND GO. THANK YOU for joining the mission!

THRIVENT INVITES YOU  
AND YOUR FAMILY TO

# Cookie Decorating

APRIL 8TH  
ZOOM FROM 6-7PM

HOSTED BY  
MANDY WRIGHT

RSVP BY APRIL 1ST  
TO 715-551-1303

no products will be sold



THE OFFICE WILL  
BE CLOSED

MONDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>

IN OBSERVANCE OF  
EASTER SUNDAY.

Starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, we will  
have only one  
Communion pickup  
from 6-7 pm since it will  
be light out.



**You are invited to visit the ECSW Lay School of Ministry**

**Dates:** March 19-20, 2021 and/or April 16-17, 2021

**Course times:** are Friday evening and Saturday morning

**Worship Service** is Saturday from 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**To attend courses please register at:** <https://forms.gle/WGjDB6RTsMeuBmFG9>

For more information go to our Website: <https://ecswlayschool.org/>

For any questions, please send your message to: [ecswlayschool@gmail.com](mailto:ecswlayschool@gmail.com)