

Good Shepherd

LUTHERAN CHURCH

930 Edgewood Road Wausau, WI 54403

(Change Service Requested)

DECEMBER: 2021



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

Sunday School will use Sundays in December to work on the Christmas Program.

It will be part of the 2 pm Christmas Eve worship service.

Please confirm with Miss Jenny that your family will be in attendance.

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GOOD SHEPHERD'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sundays @ 9 am

Dec. 5 * 12 * 19

Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, Dec. 24

2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 26 * 9:00 am

Service of Renewal

Note:

No service Wed, Dec. 29

RECORDED ONLINE WORSHIP

AVAILABLE

Wednesdays & Sundays



Trunk or Treat
2021



Welcome to December!

One of my favorite books from this year is called *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth. I first bought it as an audiobook and I found it so profound that I bought a hard copy so I could mark it all up with notes too! Essentially, the author argues that the key to succeeding at something is related less to talent and more to a focused persistence that she calls “grit.” The more determined and “grittier” you are toward accomplishing something, the more likely you will do it. There is something really hopeful about that as we begin our journey through the Christmas season.

A number of years ago I heard “positive psychologist” Martin Seligman speak in about how people who do not give up have a habit of interpreting setbacks quite differently from those who do tend to give up on things. They tend to not allow failure to have permission to become a stamp on their identities. It’s extremely difficult to persevere through the consequences of marking oneself as a failure.

It is easy for me to wonder about Jesus through this lens as we prepare to celebrate his entering the world this month once again. After all, he was essentially born a “loser” to an unwed mother in a stable. Thankfully, Joseph was not a deadbeat dad and God’s plan had rested upon him enough via an angelic messenger to provoke him to love his pregnant wife and soon-to-be-born son anyway (even though the culture of the time would have certainly proclaimed loudly to do otherwise). Life did not get a whole lot better for Jesus as everywhere he went from then on, even amid shouts of adulation, he heard voices of authority telling him he was essentially a nobody. We always hear the negatives much more loudly. It would have been easy for him to have deferred to those voices rather than the voice of God that propelled him forward.

There are a lot of voices this season that would test our grit and determination. One of my new-favorite sayings is, “God doesn’t close one door without opening another, but it can be hell in the hallway.” And failure screams at us that we are destined to remain in that hallway forever. I know a lot of people who struggle with believing a lot of lies about themselves that keep them in the hallway this season:

“I don’t belong here!”

“I am insignificant and have nothing to offer.”

“I am not a good person.”

“I am not good enough just as I am.”

“I don’t do anything right.”

“I just don’t have what it takes.”

“I am just a big disappointment to everyone.”

“I only let people down.”

What are you struggling with believing about yourself right now? I want you to know that you matter. You get your value not from the voices you hear inside your head or even the ones that are directed toward you on the outside. Your value comes from the One who offers new life naming you and claiming you, again and again and again. Christmas is the season that we celebrate new beginnings even while failure screams at us. For people of faith the birth and life of Jesus is truly the time between *what was* and *what’s next*.

A new day is on the way, beloved, and the Christmas season is an ideal time to “grittily” assert whose we are in the face of all the things that would seek to “steal and kill and destroy” us. And this One comes again that we “may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Grit and grace,

Pastor Kemp



Thank You

Blood Drive: Parish Nurse, Barb Denfeld

Community Dinner: Family of Ruth Henkelman!! Ruth, Christine, Danielle, Gus & Richard and David & Ethan

Confirmation Speakers: Sandi Kruger Kelch (Community Outreach Taskforce), Jim Harris (We Help War Victims)

Fall Yard Cleanup: Brian Denfeld, Shelly Ellenbecker, Marty Krahn, Mike Sturzenegger, Marj & Wayne Viergutz

Financial Gift for Furnace: Marty Krahn, Joyce Nick

Thanksgiving Eve Worship: Susan Mazique and the Confirmation readers, Ali, Ollie & Trevor, decorator, Kathy Schneider, pie server, Shelly Ellenbecker, music provider, Kartika Putri and a special Thanksgiving message by Pastor Kemp. We are most thankful for this congregation of worshipers!

We Care Fall Bags: MJ Horvat & Confirmation Students

Appreciation Disclaimer: For those unnamed for all the tasks and worship assisting that goes on by each and every one who quietly lends a hand, you are greatly appreciated.

OFFICIAL ACTS

Wedding: 11-11-2021

Mike & Laurie Sturzenegger

Baptism: 11-14-2121

Cecilia Grace Mueller

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 2022

This will be a hybrid meeting both in person and with Zoom (online) options.

Reports by committee leaders need to be submitted by December 31 at the latest.

Gift Tree / Hat & Mitten Tree

This year we are excited to bring a little Christmas to the residents and clients of North Central Health Care. We have 25 names to be picked and purchased for. Please wrap the gift and attach the tag taken from the tree. The gifts will be delivered on Mon, Dec 13. This is a firm deadline.

Hats, mittens and socks
Can be added
Any time.

Winter items
Will be divided
between
Several area
agencies and
schools.



Better Than Ever!

G S L C Ministry Excellence Drive 2022

Thank you to everyone who has filled out your pledge card for 2021 and remained current or caught up with 2020 pledged intended giving! We are very aware of the unusual year and greatly appreciate the support directed towards Good Shepherd during these isolated and difficult times.

We are nearing the end of this year's drive and will be calling those from whom we have not heard from in order to give everyone the opportunity to participate.

As we know, the ministries of Good Shepherd rely solely on the generous and prayerful giving of this congregation.

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

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

DAILY DEVOTIONALS ARE HERE:

Christ in Our Home & Portals of Prayer (Oct-Dec) & (Jan 2022)

CONFIRMATION

Wednesday evenings will usually look like this:

5:30 pm Gathering and Announcements

5:35-6:25 pm Lesson and Learning Activities

6:25 pm Closing

Classes will dismiss around 6:30 (by 6:35 at the latest)

December 1, 8, 15- lessons

If you have questions prior to that meeting, you can direct them to Tim Holcomb (alissasadad03@gmail.com, 715-212-3633), MJ Horvat (horvatmj@aol.com, 715-205-9195) or Pastor Kemp.

CORKS - N - COVERS

Dec. 9 / 12:30 pm

Christmas Potluck at Community Room in the River Life Apartments

Book Discussion: Identical Strangers - a memoir of twins separated and reunited by Elyse Schein and Paula Bernstein.

Contact Bonnie if you would like to get connected. bonhealthcorner@yahoo.com

REMINDER

End of year offerings need to be postmarked no later than Friday,

December 31 to be counted towards 2021 charitable giving.

The office will be open until 4 pm.

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed December 24 & 27, 2021 in observance of Christmas and Monday, January 3, 2022 in observance of New Year's Day.

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

**Indoor Worship
Sundays @ 9:00 am**

Worship services available
Released for:

**Sundays
Wednesdays**

go to
GSLC Wausau WI on Youtube,
www.gswausau.org
Facebook
(they remain available at
our youtube channel)

STAFF

Rev. Kemp Jones
Senior Pastor

Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 106

Dr. Kartika Putri

Minister of Worship and Music
Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 103

Angie Huckbody

Parish Administrator
Office: 715.675.1997 ext.: 101

Brian Wiese

Interim Financial Secretary
Brian.gslcfinance@advanit.com
715.539.6700

Barb Denfeld

Mary Omernik
Parish Nurses

Cory Toth LaPointe
Treasurer



DECEMBER Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Cory Pfantz | 15 Connie Beyersdorff | 24 Cory Toth-LaPointe |
| 2 Jacob Duellman
Jeremy Grubb | 17 Eric Golombiski
Angie Huckbody | 26 Christine Mertes |
| 4 Mike Rocheleau | Beckett Teske | 27 Cassandra Bargender
Nancy Bergstrom |
| 5 Dean Schwede | 20 Avery Devine | 28 Barbara Budimlija
William Bootz |
| 6 Quillan Cummings | Paul Josiger | 30 Kennedi Devine
Annora Millerleile |
| 8 Pam Hildebrandt | Ryan Kroening | 31 Barbara Baumgardt |
| 10 Emma Graveen
Cheri Guenther
Dakota Schalow | Katherine Uttecht | |
| 13 Rebecca Chapman | 21 Andy Davis
Logan Glovinski | |
| | 23 Abigail Trapp | |

DECEMBER Anniversaries

- 8 Douglas and Lori Crawford
- 9 Bert and Gail Koehler
- 15 Dan and Vicki Young
- 19 Pr. Kemp and Ann Jones
- 20 Scott and Denise Mattice
- 29 Dave and Le Ann Gallagher



This holiday, make a difference while you shop

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.
[amazon smile](https://smile.amazon.com)



Happy Shopping & Merry Christmas
<https://smile.amazon.com>

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Online Worship
Available
Sundays

Online Worship
Available
Wednesdays

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am
Sunday School
Adult Forum

5:30 pm
Shepherd
Strummers

7:00 pm Monday
Nt AA

9:00 am
LWR Quilters

9:00 am Wed AA
5:30 pm
Confirmation-Jim
Harris Speaker
Bell Rehearsal
6:00 pm
6:30 pm Choir
Rehearsal

6:30 pm
Riverview
Neighborhood
Mtg

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am
Sunday School
Adult Forum

5:30 pm
Shepherd
Strummers

7:00 pm Monday
Nt AA

9:00 am
LWR Quilters

9:00 am AA
5:30 pm
Confirmation
5:30 pm
Bell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Choir
Rehearsal

Julie Rhyner
Visitation: 9 am
Funeral: 11 am

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am
Sunday School
Adult Forum

5:30 pm
Shepherd
Strummers

4:00 pm Gift
Tree Deadline 4

7:00 pm Monday
Nt AA

9:00 am
LWR Quilters

6:30 pm Church
Council Mtg

9:00 am AA
5:30 pm Bell
Rehearsal
5:30 pm
Confirmation
6:30 pm Choir
Rehearsal
OFFERING
COUNT

9:00 am Worship
10:00 am
Baptism:
Oliver Lakus
Sunday School
Adult Forum

5:30 pm
Shepherd
Strummers

7:00 pm Monday
Nt AA

9:00 am
LWR Quilters

9:00 am AA
No Confirmation-
break
5:30 pm Bell
Rehearsal
6:30 pm Choir
Rehearsal

Office Closed

Christmas Eve
Worship
2:00 pm & 7:00
pm

9:00 am Worship

Office Closed in
observance of
Christmas Day

7:00 pm Monday
Nt AA

No LWR
Quilters-break

9:00 am AA

No Confirmation-
break

Year End
OFFERING
COUNT

Office Open
until 4:00 pm

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau WI

Church Council meeting minutes

October 12, 2021 Socially distanced in Fellowship Hall GSLC, & via Zoom

Call to Order –6:30 pm *Present: Pastor Kemp Jones, Josh Stumpner, Brad Bartelt, Cheryl Rocheleau, Shelly Ellenbecker, Tony Omernik, M. J. Horvat, Jenny Samperisi, Cory Toth-LaPointe, Geri Luer, Heidi Falstad, Paul Grewe

Gathering Litany – Pastor Kemp

God's Word

- Devotional time, Jenny – From Paul's letter to the Thessalonians - Encouragement
- Sharing how you have seen God at work lately – ALL

Review

- Agenda review – Amended: duplicate "Fall Stewardship," New Business – Boiler replacement, Dartball added, Heidi / Brad – APPROVED
 - Minutes review – Amended: timing of Worship Service Shelly / Geri - APPROVED
- September income was \$14,663, expenses were \$20,902. We transferred \$1,511 from the building fund for a negative \$4,728 in total net income. Current reserves are \$59,283.04 (\$35,675 is PPP) in the general fund, \$26,013 in the building fund, and \$13,299 in work of the church. Third quarter year to date totals (Jan – Sept): \$159,301 for income, \$18,996 in transferred funds and \$223,476 in expenses. Leaving us with a total net income of negative \$45,180. We are currently \$15,196 behind our budget. We budgeted \$253,500 in contributions for three quarters of the year. We received \$156,778 in unrestricted contributions, leaving a negative \$96,722 for income. We budgeted \$283,484 for expenses and have spent \$223,476 for a balance of \$60,008 in favor of the church for expenses.– Geri / Tony. - APPROVED

Our Response to the Word

(Old Business)

- 1) **Re-Visiting Our Vision, Mission** – Pastor Kemp lead the Council in beginning a process of synthesizing our Mission into tangible, observable, and when possible measurable results; to guide our decisions, action and employment of resources. We will dig deeper into 'gather in blessings' and how this is made concrete and measurable next meeting, and continue through our mission.
- 2) **GSLC Family Call List Project** – Council members reported back on the successes, epiphanies, and frustrations of reaching out to all the joined family of Good Shepherd. Discernable trends include: passionate appreciation for our staff, sometimes misplaced frustration with the necessity of pandemic safety, concern for family, and a few actionable suggestions. Notable observations will be forwarded to Josh for further action by Council.
- 3) **Church Council Membership Candidates** – Enthusiasm to serve on Church Council is difficult to gauge. Candidates have yet to be identified.
- 4) **Fall Stewardship** – Multiple videos to share the depth of love for Good Shepherd are recorded, with more slated – including the inciteful comments of recently joined church family. A letter with more explanation of this year's stewardship initiatives will be published later this week.
- 5) **Health Savings Account for staff** – Following discussion, a **MOTION** to provide transportable Health Savings Accounts at the more modest "B level" to augment the modest wage increase of 1% (with the hope that future giving will allow expansion in coming years), was tendered by Brad and seconded by Cory. With Pastor Kemp abstaining for purposes of ethics, the motion **PASSED**.
- 6) **2022 Budget** – The pro forma 2022 budget was updated to reflect benefit decisions, completion of concrete work in 2021, and timing of expenses relating to AV upgrades. As with 2021, we must anticipate a net loss assuming trends continue. Budget planning will continue to hone the budget for later Council approval.
- 7) **Weather Cancellation procedure** – A procedure is in place in the event of weather necessitating cancellation of services for safety reasons.
- 8) **Community For All** – Cheryl is in communication with the renamed "We are Wausau" council on inclusivity.

(New Business)

- 1) **Boiler Replacement** – A **MOTION** was offered by Tony, seconded by Jenni, giving authority to the Executive Committee to negotiate for the best bid to replace the currently inoperative heating boiler, using building funds, with reasonable haste (as we anticipate Wisconsin Winter may reoccur.) Expected cost near \$14,000 **PASSED**
- 2) **"Trunk or Treat" Event** – Enthusiasm for the return of this event has accelerated at a mercurial pace, including community involvement. Special thanks to our staff for their boundless energy and passion.

Action Items:

- ✓ Re-examine the mission direction to 'gather in blessings' for tangible results
- ✓ Support 'Trunk or Treat' in as many ways as you can
- ✓ Share GSLC via Social Media (at least 1 more – keep it rolling)
- ✓ Touch base with your assigned list of GSLC family, make note of relevant information, refer to Josh

Prayers of the Church / Lord's Prayer Sending (motion to adjourn) Jenny / Heidi PASSED Adjournment 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Grewe, GSLC Secretary

2021 Poinsettia Order Form



Poinsettias will be used to beautify the sanctuary and honor loved ones for the Christmas worship services. Plants are in 6.5 inch pots with 5-7 red blossoms.

Order form and payment due in the church office no later than Friday, December 13, 2021.

COST: \$13.00

Checks can be made out to **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.**

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Please indicate your wording choices for bulletin insert below.

___: Given to the Glory of God...

___: Given **in memory / honor of**

___: Will take plant home ___: Would like plant donated to home bound member.



OFFICE USE:

AMOUNT PD

CK # / CASH

