

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
700 North Wright Rd
Janesville, WI 53546
608-754-0067



THE STAFF NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

What's happening at Good Shepherd

During the month of December, Pastor David Andert will be presiding over services on **December 7th, December 14th, and on Christmas Eve**. Holy communion will be celebrated during these services.



We have collected 36 items for ECHO recently.

The adopt-a-family tree is in the fellowship room. All gifts should be wrapped with the star attached to the package. They will be placed on the altar on December 14th and delivered to ECHO on December 15th. Thank you to everyone that has participated in this annual program.

A wonderful time was had by everyone that attended our LAFF/ Fellowship breakfast at Denny's after the worship service on November 9th. Thank you to everyone that attended.

We are now collecting gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and socks. The items will be distributed to various agencies in Janesville.



~Ruth Demmon, Care and Concern



“Come into my Heart, Lord Jesus”

All of the excitement of Christmas is upon us. Some who are taking time to read this devotional today are probably pretty well ready for the holidays. Others are scurrying around taking care of more planning, details, and responsibilities. This might be a good day to remember the purpose of the holiday – to celebrate the birth of Jesus,

the Christ, the Savior, the King of Kings.

If you look up from reading the newsletter you may see a Nativity scene decorating your home. It depicts Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus in a manger. There are likely shepherds gathered around, and maybe some wise men. There may be a few animals. Whatever is there, it is a scene of peace and tranquility. That's what we hope for at Christmas. We imagine that Mary didn't have morning sickness, Joseph was a patient traveler, and that Jesus didn't wake up in the middle of the night crying to be changed and fed. We picture the ideal, because that's what we want. But the reality is often quite different.

Nowhere does Christmas become more a part of our lives than in our homes. Nowhere is the ordinary routine disrupted more than in our homes: decorating, baking, special meals with family, budget disruption, and so much more. Nowhere do we experience the good and painful memories that Christmas can bring than in our home. All of these thoughts and activities can lead us away from the true, central meaning of Christmas if we let them. Or they can enrich it.

There is even more. The Son of God came to earth for the salvation of everyLori,one; that is what Christmas is all about. The gifts of grace, forgiveness, peace, joy, and love are for all people. If we remember that Jesus died for the whole world, we view it differently.

Christmas is a message for all people, everywhere – even for those who don't want it. That truth affects how we relate to the world, how we view it, and how we treat it. We pray for peace in the world.

In the midst of the busyness of this season when we celebrate Jesus coming into the world, take time to also pray that he comes again into our lives, our homes, our church, our community, and our world. In the midst of turmoil, remember that it is the Prince of Peace whose birth we celebrate.

Celebrating Christ's Birth,
Pastor David Andert

"Our God Is the God of Possibilities"

As the year 2025 draws to a close, it is a good time to reflect as to where we currently are, compared to how the year began.

For Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 2025, it was a definite roller coaster ride with many "twists and dips." It began with our pastor's abrupt resignation, and a newly elected council. By April, several members of Good Shepherd resigned from the congregation, including several members of the new council, as the challenge of survival was very great.



However, God blessed us with the opportunity to have several pastors lead our worship, as well as trying different styles of worship, including video sermons. Lay people discovered new callings of ministry and have been leading the worship services on the Sundays that we have not had a pastor. Offerings have continued to provide for Holy Communion twice a month, and sometimes three times a month.

The end of June saw the congregation at the point of being able to sign a contract with Pastor David Andert for six months, to be our "Part-time Interim Pastor." Pastor David has been a real blessing and stabilizing presence for us. With Holy Communion two times a month for sure, our attendance and offerings have stabilized. In November, the council approved a new contract with Pastor David that is open-ended.

At the beginning of June, another twist was added to the challenge. Our Music Director, Charlotte Hawley, had an accident, and has been unable to be with us the rest of the year. Even though it hasn't been the same pianist every Sunday, God has provided a pianist for us continually.

What began as a challenging year ended with so many blessings that it is difficult to list them. However, it is most important that we remember that it is God who is the provider of those blessings and to thank Him for all that He has done for Good Shepherd.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

In Christ,
Cordy Madorin, council president



Hello members of Good Shepherd.

On **January 18th, 2026**, we will have our annual congregational meeting. After this meeting, I will be your council leader. I pray most often for God to lead me. . . Lead me in His ways; Lead me in what He wants for our church; Lead me in what to say politely; and most of all, to Lead me in leading you.

In the past 10 years, I have been an ostrich pertaining to the church. "What?," you say. Well, we as a congregation have been like ostriches; burying our heads in the sand. We have left the logistics of our church to be run by a select few. In the process, many of our constitutional rules and bylaws have been neglected. I would like to try and get us back on track. In order to do this, we all need to step up.

I have talked to many who have said that they couldn't do what I do. God hasn't called you to do what I do, but I do believe that God has called you to guide me in what I should/could/would do. "How?," you ask. Well, the first way is to at least come to our annual meeting (boring as it may be) to give your opinion. If you disagree with a vote, your "Nay" is being hard. If you don't come and vote, then I'm assuming that you don't have an opinion about what the council decides to do. Barring, of course, that your absence is due to health reasons. No matter who is on the council, they want to do what is best for the whole of our church.

I know that since the Covid mandates were lifted, many have gotten out of the habit of getting up and going to church on Sunday mornings. Maybe the council could look at alternate ideas, but we'd like to hear what you ALL have to say or think. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, talk to me or any of the council members.

Again, I ask you all to consider marking your calendars to attend OUR annual meeting on

JANUARY 18TH, 2026.

Sincerely, Mike Hornby, 2025 President Elect.
Cell #: 608-295-7258.



It's December! Wow!!

I hope you all have a blessed Christmas. It's the time of year that we celebrate the birth of Jesus. What an unbelievably wonderful gift God gave us!

Well, it's a busy time of year for of us on council. We are preparing for our annual meeting that is being held on January 18th after the worship service. I hope that you will all attend. It's the time for you to voice your opinions, all of which are important to our congregation as we move forward. It's a time for you to ask questions; a time for you to consider stepping up to help in whatever way you are able. We all need to work together to be able to succeed here at Good Shepherd!

God's blessings on your holiday season!

Respectfully,
Enid Branham
Treasurer



Dec 2	Bob Hornby
Dec 3	Tammie Mueller
Dec 7	Virginia Schaeffer
Dec 16	Briana Cook
Dec 16	Terry Seltz
Dec 17	Bobbi Bogner
Dec 17	Isiah Crawford
Dec 18	Lane Mueller
Dec 19	Beth Dillivan
Dec 22	Mary Kilmer
Dec 23	Jeff Hall
Dec 31	Lu Anne Schumacher



Todd and Bobbi Bogner
December 8th



WEEKLY OFFERINGS OCTOBER 2025

10/05/25	\$2,795.00
10/12/25	\$1,925.00
10/19/25	\$1,160.00
10/26/25	\$745.00
Total	\$6,625.00

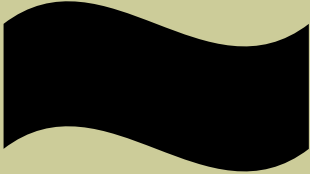


Join us for worship live on our Facebook page every Sunday morning at
<https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdJanesville>



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office Closed <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	2	3	4 <u>8:00 am</u> Men's Group	5	6
7 <u>10:00 am</u> Worship with Holy Communion-with Pastor David Andert <u>11:00 am</u> Council Meeting	8 Church Office Closed <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	9	10	11 <u>8:00 am</u> Men's Group	12	13
14 <u>10:00 am</u> Worship with Holy Communion-with Pastor David Andert	15 Church Office Closed <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	16	17	18 <u>8:00 am</u> Men's Group	19	20 <u>10:00 am</u> Deadline for January newsletter articles
21 <u>10:00 am</u> Worship Service	22 Church Office Closed <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	23	24 <u>3:30 pm</u> Prelude Music <u>4:00 pm</u> Candlelight Service -Worship with Holy Communion-with Pastor David Andert	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27
28 <u>10:00 am</u> Worship Service	29 Church Office Closed <u>7:00 pm</u> Boy Scouts	30	31			



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Sunday Worship
10:00 am

Office Hours
Tuesday—Friday
9:30 am—3:30 pm



South-Central Synod
of Wisconsin

To keep current on news from the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, visit <https://scsw-elca.org/>
You can also signup to have their weekly newsletter emailed to you: <https://scsw-elca.org/news/>



Tithes and offerings

You can now send your offerings electronically through our website (goodshepherdjanesville.org) via PayPal,