

**THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD  
DECEMBER 26 – JANUARY 2**

**TODAY**

8:00 am Traditional Worship w/HC  
9:15 am Christian Education Hour  
-No Sunday School  
9:30 am Traditional Service w/HC  
10:45 am Contemporary Worship w/HC

**WEDNESDAY**

8:30 am Prayer Group  
-NO Midweek Classes  
-No Wednesday Service  
7:00 pm Sr. Youth Group

**FRIDAY—New Years Eve**

Church office is CLOSED today

**SUNDAY**

8:00 am Traditional Worship  
9:15 am Christian Education Hour  
9:30 am Traditional Worship  
10:45 am Contemporary Worship



Senior Pastor  
Rev. Gary Werling

Vicar  
Eric Larson

Director of Children and  
Family Ministry  
Tara Hess

Director of Youth Ministry  
Bob Broekemeier

Director of Preschool  
Lisa Stirtz

Director of Outreach  
Vern Nemitz

DCE-Specialized Ministry  
Warren Viehl

Head Organist  
Sonja Lundgren

Choir Director  
Rick Zorko

Director of Praise Band  
Andy Hardies

Business Manager  
Jan Kounkel

Administrative Assistant  
Cathy Kilawee

**Sunday Worship**

8:00 am (Traditional in Sanctuary)  
9:30 am (Traditional in Sanctuary)  
10:45am (Contemporary in MAC)

**Wednesday Evening Worship**

7:00 PM (Traditional in Sanctuary)

**Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church**  
(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

**End of Year Worship  
SUNDAY  
December 26, 2021**

11204 South 204th Street \* PO Box 39 \* Gretna, NE 68028  
(402) 332-3345 \* [gslc@gslcgretna.org](mailto:gslc@gslcgretna.org) \* [www.gslcgretna.org](http://www.gslcgretna.org)

# WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

- **Thank you** for joining us today! We pray that your time in worship will encourage and strengthen you. We share the greatest hope through the One who loves us the most - Jesus Christ!
- **Altar Flowers** are displayed in the Sanctuary and MAC and can be donated by signing up in the Altar Flower book located on the table in the back of the Sanctuary/MAC entry. The cost is \$40.00 per bouquet. Please make checks payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and place in Altar Flowers mailbox directly in front of the church entry doors of the sanctuary.

## FOR THE 8:00 A.M. & 9:30 A.M. SERVICES IN SANCTUARY AND 7:00 P.M. SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY

- **Restrooms** are located in the hallway on the north side of the sanctuary and at the southwest end of the educational wing.

## FOR THE 10:45A.M. CONTEMPORARY SERVICE IN THE MAC

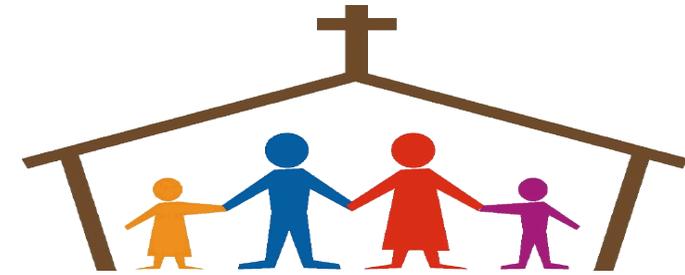
- **Restrooms** are located on either side of the kitchen and in the hallway.

**MASKS?** At this time they are optional. If you feel you should wear one — go ahead.

### “A YEAR TO GROW IN PRAYER” - OUR 2021 MINISTRY FOCUS

Good Shepherd’s ministry challenge for all of us this year is that we might *grow in prayer*. Though it is too often neglected, prayer is one of the great blessings that God has given to His people. Christ Himself took frequent times to pray to His Heavenly Father. He taught His disciples to pray. The Bible is filled with references to prayer by which we are encouraged to pray for all sorts and conditions of people. Through our prayers, the Lord pours out so many blessings to so many people and in so many circumstances!

May the Lord challenge us and bless us as we make **2021: A Year to Grow in Prayer!**



**SIMPLY GIVING IS NOW “GIVEPLUS** In addition to online bank offerings, GivePlus Church is also a mobile giving app that enables you to make one-time or recurring gifts from your smartphone. Visit the App Store or Google Play and search for “GivePlus Church” to download the free app. In addition, you can text your offering to 402-347-7467 and start donating today!

**GSLC ENDOWMENT MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY** As noted last month, a GSLC couple has offered a generous \$20,000 match for new gifts to the GSLC Endowment! **To date we have received \$15,000 toward the match so we are three-fourths of the way there.** We invite you to help us complete this new match by making a special gift, above and beyond your regular support. It **will be doubled** thanks to the match and will help us grow the Endowment to further enhance our ministry outreach.

The GSLC Endowment is a separate fund set up to manage special gifts for future ministry, given both during our lifetimes and through our Wills and Trusts. The GSLC Endowment will provide support for ministry beyond our budget including additional mission work, scholarships for students attending our Lutheran schools, mercy ministries for those dealing with economic or personal hardships, support for our praise band, and capital projects and facility improvements.

To make your gift, simply mail or drop off your gift at the church office. Please make your check payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and be sure to clearly identify that your gift is for the Endowment. Through the match, your gift of \$50 becomes \$100, \$500 becomes \$1,000, and \$5,000 becomes \$10,000. Whatever you are able to share will be a great blessing for the future of ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

For more information or to discuss how you can make a current gift or a gift through your Will or Trust contact Craig Stirtz at 402-616-0312 or [craig.stirtz@lfn.org](mailto:craig.stirtz@lfn.org).

**LCMSFoundation** Who will be best blest by gifts from my estate someday? God has made you steward of all His gifts entrusted to your care in your estate. You cannot pass that responsibility of transferring those gifts without some careful thought and prayer. Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Craig Stirtz at 402-616-0312 or [craig.stirtz@lfn.org](mailto:craig.stirtz@lfn.org)

**NEW MEMBER ROUNDUP AND LUNCH** will be held on Sunday, January 30 in the education wing after the late service (around Noon). Invitations are going out to all who have joined GSLC since the start of Covid. Members of the Leadership Council will be on hand to share some the exciting things being planned for 2022. We look forward to this time together with our new GSLC families!

**WEE LAMBS PRESCHOOL HIRING NEW DIRECTOR** Good Shepherd is seeking applications for a new preschool director for the 2022-2023 school year. If you or someone you know is interested please send a resume to Tony Eitzmann at [teitzmann@seimjohnson.com](mailto:teitzmann@seimjohnson.com).

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

\*\* 8:00AM - 70 \*\* 9:30AM - 260 \*\* 10:45AM - 135

<b>GENERAL OFFERING</b>	\$13,683
<b>GIVEPLUS FOR NOVEMBER</b>	<b>\$35,534</b>

## **OFFERINGS REPORT FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER**

October 2021 \$93,439 / October 2020 \$75,596 (difference of +\$17,843)  
November 2021 \$114,931 / November 2020 \$76,559 (difference of +\$38,372)

**Thank you for your stewardship of the Lord's gifts for the work of His Kingdom!**

## **Stewardship Thought**

### **Receiving and Giving**

There is a phrase that states, "The mind grows by what it takes in—the heart grows by what it gives out." Interestingly, stewardship involves both taking in and giving out. What God gives us, we are to receive graciously and thankfully. Recognizing that the many God-given gifts we receive can be used to further God's kingdom, we give generously (2 Corinthians 9:11). God gives so we can give. Thus, the cycle goes: God gives, we receive, we give, and God replenishes.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, You are the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, and the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. We are so blessed that You have called and chosen us to be Your children. Thank You for blessing us so richly. We especially thank You for Your Son who became our sin so we can live as forgiven and redeemed people who will spend eternity with You. Help us to share our blessings with others. Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## **NOTES FOR TODAY'S SERVICES**

**SERVING TODAY** **Pastor:** Gary Werling **Elders:** 8:00/9:30-Joel Elson; 10:45-Shaun Nienhueser. **Ushers:** 8:00-Loren Katt, John Sangimino, Darin Ahrens, Cory Bachman; 9:30-Bob Kincade, Tom Lammel, Marc Lindblom, Steve Moore; 10:45-John Correll, Aiden Frager, Andrew Frager, Mark Kardell. **Greeters:** 8:00-Sarah Vodicka; 9:30-Gloria Lessmann. **Lectors:** 8:00-Alane Johns; 9:30-Steven Willey; 10:45-Nancy Turpen. **Acolyte:** 8:00-Micah Hess. **Communion Set-up:** 8/930-Jan Zorko, 10:45-Helen Niemann. **Counter:** Ken & Terry Stine. **Pew Custodian:** Amber Soucek. **Organist:** Sonja Lundgren. **Live Stream/ProPresenter:** 8:00-Tara & Charles Hess; 10:45-Helen Niemann & Andy Hardies. **Sound:** 10:45-Loretta Hardies

**PLEASE RECORD YOUR ATTENDANCE WITH US TODAY** **For the Sanctuary services,** please record your information on the blue cards in the Sanctuary pew racks and pass them to the end of the inside of your row to be picked up by the ushers after they deliver the offering. **For the MAC service,** please record your attendance in the red folder located in each row of chairs and pass the folder to others in your row. The folders will be picked up after the MAC service. **Yellow PRAYER CARDS** are for special prayers that you would like our prayer team to pray for. Please drop them in the back of the Sanctuary or in the Mac entry way in the "Prayer Card" basket.

**THE LORD'S SUPPER TODAY** We invite adult baptized Christians who are one with us in the fellowship of faith to come to the Lord's altar and receive with us in the Holy Communion the very body and blood of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus has given this Supper and Sacrament to assure us that our sins are forgiven and we have eternal life through faith in Him. Adult baptized Christians who come to this table of our Lord should first:

- Confess all sins to God
- Believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord
- Desire the Spirit's power to live a Christ-like life
- Recognize the Real Presence of Christ's body and blood in this Sacrament

Please contact a pastor if you have a question about communion.

May the Lord strengthen us in the forgiveness of sins unto eternal life.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** **Birthdays:** 12/26-Isabella Domina, John Kolbe, Christal Kuchera, Jobi Pieschke, Bette Twarling; 12/27-Jeanne Bartels, Shelia Gates, Chris Harnly, Addyson Lorenz, Jovie Neubauer, Jon Schuetz; 12/28-Payne Ahrens, Ronda Bruggeman, Dan Hotovy, Justin Jackson, Jordan Lorenz, Alexander Suggitt; 12/29-Shaylynn Campbell, Diana Goldenstein, Merlena Hartmann, Suzi Hoelt, Chris Torczon, Emily Werling; 12/30-Nathan Harmon, Nicholas Harmon, John Kelly, Tom Lammel, Easton Madsen, Keeley Madsen; 12/31-Creighton Atkins, Justin Goldman, Faith Klimm, Jeremy Kyte; 1/1-Scott Christie, Mark Peterson, Matt Rickert. **Anniversaries:** 12/27-Ron & Carol Dickmeyer, Andy & Hannah Dorn; 12/28-David & Pam List; Roger & Teri Vierregger; 12/30-Corey & Brooke Campbell; 12/31-Mike & Sarah Bogseth, Craig & Angie Busch, Broc & Megan Gregory. **Health and Strength:** Bret Aegerter, Catherine Anderson, Kerri Black, Rich Draper, Melinda Halverson, Ron Johns, Ed Kauss, John Keehn, Bill Kiesling, Amy LaFontaine, Barb Margolis, Barb Nordmeyer, Kyle O'Neill, Scott Schreiner, Janice Twiss, Anita Voge, Pam Werling, Vance Wolverton & Bob Wood. **Serving Our Country:** Kayla Andrews, Trent Boyer, Valkyrie Cailkison, Jamie Durance, Jeffrey Durance, Jessica Durance, Daniel Ellis, Colton Fickler, Christian Hadden, Brayden Hardies, Joe LeMaster, Corbin Michael, Shay Pippitt, Reagan Reiditer, Alden Ryan, Alex Ryan, Matthew Schuetz,

Ryan Schuetz, Jon Spahn, Jason Vierra, Alan Wineinger. **Overseas Servants of the Gospel:** The Ahlman family, Alyssa Anders, The Ashor family, The Baker family, The Cima family, The Clausing family, Nichelle Dykema, The Eisold family, The Fay family, Rev. Stuart & Debra Freese, Gail Grieser, The Hosch family, The Kuddes family, The Lehman family, The Lo family, Kendra McNatt, James & Christel Neuendorf, Judy Newhouse, Sharon Owen, The Paul family, Sandra Rhein, The Rickman family, Steven & Cynthia Schumacher, The Sharp family, Douglas & Angela Thompson, The Wildauer family, The Wood family, and The Yang family.

**INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT OUR CHURCH** Please stop by the welcome table in the back of the sanctuary or in the front lobby of the Ministry Activities Center and pick up a Welcome Folder of information about Good Shepherd. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to talk with our Director of Outreach Vern Nemitz or to Pastor. They will be happy to assist you!

**INVITING FRIENDS** Do you know of someone who doesn't know Jesus, or who doesn't currently have a church home? Why not invite them to a worship service or to an event at Good Shepherd!

## WORD & WORSHIP

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Please note that regular Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 2nd. If you have any questions, please contact Tara Hess at [tara.hess@gslcgretna.org](mailto:tara.hess@gslcgretna.org).

**MIDWEEK SCHOOL** Our 2021-2022 Midweek School for all children in Grades 3 – 8 meets every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30pm. The school will resume after Christmas break on January 5th.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS** Calling all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders, join us each Sunday from 9:15 – 10:15am in the Jr. High room in the MAC as for a bible study and fellowship led by Bob Broekemeier. We also meet the 3rd Sunday of every month from 6:00pm to 7:00pm in the MAC for fellowship, games, and fun!

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** Each Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15am, the Sr. High youth will meet in the Sr. High room in the MAC. Also each Wednesday at 7:30pm, the High School youth will gather for fellowship around the Word. Please join us!

**BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING** Join us from 9:15 – 10:15am in the education wing and all are invited – drop ins too! Pastor Werling and Vicar Larson take turns leading this study on Sundays. We are studying the Book of Exodus in the Noah and Joshua rooms in the education wing. Grab a cup of coffee, a donut and join us as we look at this dramatic story of one of God's faithful people. All adults are welcome!

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY/LWML** We began the Bible Study with topic of "Be Still and Know". This is a study of rest and refuge by Deb Burma. We meet every Monday night at 6:30pm, at the church, in the education wing. We still have books available, so please join us! Please enter at the church office doors. Once a month during this time, together we do a service project. If anyone has a service project we could do, please let Lisa Stirtz or Shelley Barber.

**TUESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY** Join us on Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30am in the

Joshua and Noah rooms of the education wing. We are starting a new study on the book of Proverbs called "Provoking Proverbs". Vicar Eric Larson is the leader for this study. Please come and join us.

**BOARD OF HUMAN CARE** continues to meet on Wednesday mornings in the church library at 8:30am to pray. You are encouraged to join us! If you have any prayer requests or questions please contact: Renee Boyer at 402-960-7505/[rboyermb@hotmail.com](mailto:rboyermb@hotmail.com), Sondra Harrold at 402-253-2280/[harroldw@aol.com](mailto:harroldw@aol.com), or the church office.

**MEN'S THURSDAY MORNING ZOOM BIBLE BREAKFAST** will resume Thursday, January 6th at 6:30AM.

**PICK UP YOUR HOME DEVOTIONS** Stop and pick up a copy of Portals of Prayer and/or Hope-Full Living, which are available on the back table in the sanctuary and MAC lobby. Strive to be regularly in God's Word in your daily walk of faith!

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VICAR ERIC AND FAMILY** are visiting family in Kansas City. They will return by next Sunday.

**WEDNESDAY SERVICES** will resume on Wednesday, January 5th at 7:00pm.

**2022 ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION WITH LUNCH** for all boards and committees will take place on Sunday, January 9 after the late service. We will meet in the education wing for lunch hosted by the hospitality committee, and then proceed with our 2022 mission and ministry planning for each board. All board members are needed for this important meeting.

**PRIME TIMERS LUNCH AND GAMES HERE ON JANUARY 10** All folks of retirement age are cordially invited to come to our first 2022 Prime Timers gathering in the education wing on Monday, January 10 at Noon. We will enjoy choices of soup, crackers, veggies and desserts. Please sign up for what you would like to bring on the sign up sheet in the narthex of the Sanctuary and MAC. There will also be a variety of card and board games for everyone to enjoy. Good times and fellowship!

**NEW FOUNDATIONS CLASS** Pastor Werling will begin a new Foundations class Sunday, January 9th, 16th, and 23rd, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. We will meet in the education wing (Noah and Joshua rooms). This class is for anyone desiring an introduction to the Christian faith, as well as an information class for non-Lutherans, as well as a refresher class for Lutherans. Those who complete the class may join the Lutheran Church if they desire. Please enroll for the class and/or ask any questions by contacting pastor at [gary.werling@gslcgretna.org](mailto:gary.werling@gslcgretna.org).

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SCHEDULE A BAPTISM?** Baptism is a special Sacrament of God's grace for people of all ages. Prior to the baptism, you will need to attend our Baptism Class led by Pastor Werling. The next class offered will be Thursday, January 13th in the church library at 5:30pm. Please contact the church office if you would like to attend.