

“2021—A Year to Grow in Prayer”

Our November prayer emphasis is “Thanksgiving”

Let each of us make a special effort to thank God for the many gifts that He has given to us. Each day list them and then thank Him! When we live with thankful hearts, negative thoughts have a hard time of taking over! We especially thank God for the Gift of His Son who provides the ultimate blessing that transcends all things in time and eternity.

“Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His loving kindness endures forever!” (Psalm 107:1)



...Upcoming Services...

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

“Symbols of Salvation” (Foretelling Christ’s Birth)

Our Wednesday Advent Series will be held in the Sanctuary starting Wednesday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. The theme is “*Symbols of Salvation*”. Each of the three Wednesday services will focus on an Old Testament event, place, or person which is a prophetic symbol of the long-promised Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Join us each Wednesday!

Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7:00 p.m. “The Burning Bush”

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 7:00 p.m. “The Tabernacle”

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 7:00 pm. “Gideon”

MIDWEEK ADVENT SUPPERS STARTING SOON! Join us for our three Advent Suppers in the MAC starting Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 6:20 – 7:00 p.m. Our youth group will be hosting each supper. Free will donations will go toward funding their trip to the National LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston, TX in July of 2022. Come and enjoy good fellowship and food prior to each Advent service!

The menu will be: Dec. 1-Chili & Chicken Noodle Soup with cinnamon rolls; Dec. 8-Macaroni & Cheese with Brat or Hot Dog; Dec. 15-Spaghetti.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE will be held on Sunday, December 19th at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. Please to come and worship our newborn Savior and King with our children!

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

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)

**First Sunday
In Advent**

November 28, 2021

11204 South 204th Street * PO Box 39 * Gretna, NE 68028
(402) 332-3345 * gslc@gslcgretna.org * 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!**

LCMSFoundation In a complex world, each of us need trusty advisers to lead us to proper decisions and actions. Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor does not see you as a task, but as a brother or sister in Christ, with whom to grow in relationship so that the goals woven into the fabric of your soul can be expressed in plans that will be implemented someday, as you seek to honor God. The peace and joy of a godly plan builds confidence that you have prepared well. Contact Craig Stirtz at 402-616-0312 or craig.stirtz@lfnd.org.

NEW ENDOWMENT MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY Last year we kicked off the new Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Endowment. Your outstanding generosity resulted in gifts totaling \$60,000! Thank you very much! Seeing your response to our initial match, a GSLC couple is offering another generous \$20,000 match! Since announcing this new match you have provided \$7,000. Thank you! If you have not yet given, we invite you to help us complete this new match by making a special gift, above and beyond your regular support. Your gift will be doubled thanks to the match and will help us grow the Endowment to further enhance our ministry outreach.

The GSLC Endowment provides support for more 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. You can mail or drop off your gift at the church office. Please make your check payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and clearly identify that it is for the Endowment.

To discuss your current gift or a gift through your Will or Trust contact Craig Stirtz at 402-616-0312 or craig.stirtz@lfnd.org.

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD NOVEMBER 28 –DECEMBER 5

TODAY	Advent begins!	6:20 pm	Advent Supper in the MAC
8:00 am	Traditional Worship w/HC	7:00 pm	Advent Service in Sanctuary
9:15 am	Christian Education Hour	7:00 pm	Sr. High Bible Study
9:30 am	Traditional Worship w/HC		
10:30 am	Holiday Music Mtg-Choir Loft		
10:45 am	Contemporary Worship w/HC		
		THURSDAY	
		6:30 am	Men’s Bible Breakfast
MONDAY		FRIDAY	
1:30 pm	GSLC Staff Meeting	6:30 pm	Family Bingo Night-MAC
6:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study/LWML	7:00 pm	Kauss Bible Study
TUESDAY		SUNDAY	
9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study	8:00 am	Traditional Worship
		9:15 am	Christian Education Hour
		9:30 am	Traditional Worship
WEDNESDAY		10:45 am	Contemporary Worship
8:30 am	Prayer Group		
5:30 pm	Midweek Classes		

NOTES FOR TODAY'S SERVICES

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES Needs your help to welcome refugees from Afghanistan. You can drop off any of the following supplies at the entrance of the Sanctuary or MAC or order from Amazon Wish List at www.lfsneb.org/lfsamazon and request the items to be sent directly to LFS. **We will collect through November.**

Items needed: Bath Towels, Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Soap, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Shower Curtain, Deodorant, Feminine supplies, Alarm Clock, Paper & Pen set, First Aid Kit, Diapers/Wipes, other Baby Supplies, Laundry Detergent, Sponge, Cleaning Rags, Waste Basket, Trash Bags, Dish Soap and Can Opener.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM - DRIVE-IN LIVE NATIVITY Follow that star to Good Shepherd on **Saturday, December 18th from 5-7 PM** for a FREE live nativity experience as depicted by the Junior High and Senior High Youth groups. Experience the sights and sounds from the manger more than 2000 years ago. This is a family friendly safe event as you will stay in your car and listen on your radio to the program and music. Friends and family are welcome to attend. The program will start over every 10 minutes throughout the evening. We are looking for 11 volunteers to assist with the traffic route if you are interested in helping please email the youth group or text JT at 402-490-4621.

PILLOW CASES NEEDED Sharon Kauss is in need of pillow cases in which she uses to make dresses for Grain Train. If you have some, please drop them off at the church office.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

**** 8:00AM - 71 ** 9:30AM - 162 ** 10:45AM - 114**

GENERAL OFFERING
\$9770
\$31,050

GIVEPLUS FOR OCTOBER

OFFERINGS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

September 2021 \$69,152 / September 2020 \$69,829 (difference of -\$677)
October 2021 \$93,439 / October 2020 \$75,596 (difference of +\$17,843)

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

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.

SERVING TODAY **Pastor:** Gary Werling **Vicar:** Eric Larson **Elders:** 8:00/9:30-Nate Tonjes; 10:45-Josh Richling. **Ushers:** 8:00-Jerry Kenney, Dale Hoffart, Tim Heesacker, Jim Oliver; 9:30-Kevin Damme, Tony Eitzmann, Curt Harmon; 10:45-Jeff Nielson, Larry Wendlandt, Bruce Wrona, Bob Boe. **Greeters:** 8:00-Ron & Alane Johns; 9:30-Teri Nemitz; 10:45-Craig & Lisa Stirtz. **Lectors:** 8:00-Lance Jensen; 9:30-Mikki Neinhueser; 10:45-Rod Kehlenbeck. **Acolyte:** 8:00-Chloe Hess; 9:30-Will Carson; 10:45-Evan Kilawee. **Communion Set-up:** 8:00-Ron & Alane Johns; 9:30/10:45-Lisa Stirtz. **Counter:** Kristy Hadden. **Pew Custodian:** Judy Lowe. **Organist:** 8:00-Jeff Bartels; 9:30-Sonja Lundgren. **Live Stream/ProPresenter:** 8:00-Lisa Billman & Charles Hess; 10:45-Hannah Schmidt & 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.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS today are given in celebration of Bonnie & Dale Hoffart's 52nd wedding anniversary on November 29th. God's continued blessings!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION **Birthdays:** **11/28-**Trisha Kutz, Cody Peterson; **11/29-** Ryan Johnson, Cody Lutz, Owen Ohnoutka, Hannah Schmidt, Audrey Voss; **11/30-**Lane Carson, Tom LaFontaine, Mike Trebold; **12/1-**Luke Karl; **12/2-**Chris Barton, Sadie Bronson, Reg Duke, Cameron Ellis, Anne Harris, Kristine Koch, Ann Nelson; **12/3-**Dan Dudney, Keith Hentzen, Zayden Richey; **12/4-**Lou Butler, Bert Kelley, Rogan Kudlacek, Leila Rehbein, Frank Ullman. **Anniversaries:** **11/30-**Adam & Keeley Lammers; **12/1-**Lori & Tully Kessler; **12/3-** Renee & Mark Boyer, Sarah & Bradley Goetsch. **Health and Strength:** Bret Aegerter, Catherine Anderson, Kerri Black, Ed Kauss, Bill Kiesling, Amy LaFontaine, Melinda Halverson, Barb Margolis, Carson McCroden, Barb Nordmeyer, Kyle O'Neill, John Strathman, Janice Twiss, Teri Vierregger, Anita Voge, & Bob Wood. **Peace and Comfort:** Kathy Kinney and family on the passing of Kathy's mother. **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 Our Sunday School children are busy preparing for the December 19th, 9:30am worship service. Please come and worship with us! The children's message will focus on preparing the way to bring the Good News of Jesus to all who attend. We will resume our regular schedule on Sunday, January 2nd. If you have any questions, please contact Tara Hess at 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. Our Midweek School is offered to help our children understand the Bible with particular emphasis upon God's plan of salvation in our Savior Jesus Christ. The 7th and 8th Grade combined class will focus on the chief parts of Christian doctrine from the Small Catechism. The 8th Grade class is the Confirmation Class with Confirmation to take place in early spring. It is still not too late to register online at the church's website—gslc@gslcgretna.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS Calling all 6th, 7th, and 8th 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 Life of Joseph* 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. We have made fleece tied blankets—16 of them for our baptisms at church. We also made 39 blessing bags for the Least of the Brethren homeless. 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! This week we will pray for: Pastor Werling, Vicar Larson; 3.

Year to Grow in Prayer: Thankfulness, Small groups, Choir director, Weekday classes, Angel Tree, Advent Services/Suppers, Advent-preparing hearts, Family devotions, Families serving together, Covid, Prepare nations hearts for Christ, and focus on true meaning of Christmas. If you have any prayer requests or questions please contact: Renee Boyer at 402-960-7505/rboyermb@hotmail.com, Sondra Harrold at 402-253-2280/harroldw@aol.com, or the church office.

MEN'S THURSDAY MORNING ZOOM BIBLE BREAKFAST Please join us on December 2nd at 6:30am. Pastor Werling leads our discussion on the Book of Revelation. This is ideal for men of all ages. You may join in the online conversation if you like, or simply listen to our study. The study ends around 7:30am but you are welcome to sign-off at any time. If you would like to receive an online invitation to our ZOOM study, please contact the church office at 402-333-3345 or gslc@gslcgretna.com.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT Join us for bingo on Friday, December 3rd at 6:30PM for a night of fun and fellowship. Small prizes will be awarded after each round. Families can look forward to special drawings for additional prizes!! We will be serving a popcorn bar. Please sign up outside the worship areas or by contacting Tara Hess.

2021 ANGEL TREE The annual Angel Tree Christmas (**Prison Fellowship**) will be as it was last year. Instead of purchasing physical gifts and delivering them to the children, Angel Tree will be virtual! If you would like to sponsor a child (or children), please go to the URL below and use the Access Code to sign in. Once signed in, you will be able to select by age/gender the child/ren you would like to sponsor. Each sponsorship is \$25. After you have made your selection, you will be able to securely check out. Angel Tree will take the process from there. Through Angel Tree Christmas, churches and organizations share the love of Christ in a tangible way and strengthens family bonds, delivering personalized gifts and the Gospel to children on behalf of their incarcerated parents at Christmas. Every Angel Tree child is also given access to a free, easy-to-read copy of the Bible in English or Spanish.

URL: <https://vat.angeltreetool.org/bf62a8d9-895d-4d28-b08b-8e9787b04ae1> AccessCode:5H00R. All donations should be completed no later than Sunday, December 19th. If you have questions, please reach out to Kris Gaebel, kag04700@windstream.net.

We will also have the **Angel Tree** ornaments on our trees for the **residents of Azria Care Center** here in Gretna. When you remove the ornament, please sign your name by the resident's name and return the gift by **December 8th**. The residents really appreciate these gifts!

Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for the children and care center residents! Merry Christmas from the Board of Human Care.

BAPTISM CLASS 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, December 9th** in the church library at 5:30pm. Please contact the church office if you would like to attend.

PEDER EIDE CHRISTMAS CONCERT Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gretna is hosting a night with Peder Eide. Peder Eide has spent much of the last decade serving God and the church as a full-time national Christian singer, songwriter and speaker. The event is on **Sunday, December 12th** at 7:00PM with doors opening at 6:30PM. There will be a free will offering.