

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
www.good-shepherd-church.com

OCTOBER 2026

Welcome New Members!

We Welcome New Members at our services on October 4. During the services, we will take time to recognize and welcome those who have joined the church in the last year. Join in meeting them and helping them know how much they mean to our community of faith.



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October 24
3:00 – 4:30 PM

Mark your calendars to join us for this fun fall event! Everyone is invited! Invite your friends and neighbors! We are allergy/dietary restriction friendly for those kids with any food allergies/restrictions or if you just aren't interested in candy but want to join in the fun!! Our event happens rain or shine; we do have a plan should inclement weather cause us to pivot.



Candy donations for the Trunk or Treat...are needed. If you would like to donate candy it would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at the church anytime through October 18.

Trunk decorators are also needed!

If you are interested in decorating your Trunk and passing out candy, we would love to have you join us!! Please sign up at the table in the Narthex or feel free to reach out to Mrs. Lori as soon as possible via email or by calling the church office.



REFORMATION Sunday . . .

is on October 25. This festival day in the church reminds us how the Spirit worked through Martin Luther and the reformers while also reminding us that the Spirit is at work today. **Wear your red** and join in worship as we give thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit.



Sunday, November 1 we celebrate All Saints Sunday. Both of our services will recall the saints who have entered their heavenly home. Special attention will be given to members of Good Shepherd who passed away this last year. Come and be part of giving thanks to God for all the saints.

MISSION

A caring fellowship of all God's people empowered by grace to proclaim the gospel and lovingly serve as Jesus teaches.

VISION

Transforming lives by making the hope of God real through bold faith, service, outreach, discipleship and helping all people discover their God-given value.

CORE VALUES

Encouraging each other in our lifelong journey of faith through our core values of:

- Drawing nearer to God
- Practicing Grace
- Generously Serving
- Prioritizing Love over Judgment
- Welcoming All
- Fostering Community

PEOPLE OF GOOD SHEPHERD — SEPTEMBER, 2026

Baptisms

Kasia Irena Strezo – August 30, 2026

Vanessa Renée Bush – September 6, 2026

Violet Joy Mason – September 20, 2026



Weddings

Jessican Ann Yazbec and Adam J. Suliga – September 5, 2026



New Members

Paul and Amy Enderle, Peyton, Joseph and Nathan; Ronald and Diane Bajner, Steven and Sandra Green



Known to have been ill or hospitalized

Joan Northrup, Rita Petritsch, Barb Bergamo, Matt Brett, Ed Schussler, Beth Wetzig, Gail Kendall, Shirley Hulse, Marsha Hladik, Lori Cronin, Barry Garr, Jr., Gerhard Haigis, Jim Srbeny, Bill Innocenti, Ray Delcourt, Ray Koehne, Dave Holke, Matthew Vitt and JoAnn Montecki



Known to have Experienced Bereavement

Gayle Orlando and Jeff Kirscher upon the passing of Jeff's father, Bob

Walter Hojka upon the passing of his stepfather, Jürgen Daartz

The Montecki family upon the passing of their friend, Tish Loren

Grant and Suellen Spooner upon the passing of their friend, Steve Richardson

The Spooner families upon the passing of Kurt's brother and Grant's cousin, Scott



Funerals



Herbert R. Kaysen



IMPORTANT NEWS & INFORMATION

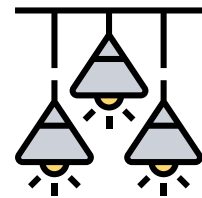
BIG
THANKS

Big Thank Yous for Rally Day and the Big Build

Those two events in September were fantastic and took a lot of work. But Good Shepherd stepped up to bring God's people together as well as to make God's love known. Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered or participated in any way.

Lighting the Sanctuary

We are in the process of getting new lighting for the sanctuary. We hope the fixtures will be ready to install this month. Once they are on site, we will need some help moving pews out and then back so that the professionals can get them up and running. All the help we can get would be greatly appreciated. Be on the look out for the dates we will need help.



Prayer Walks – Thursdays at 9pm

With all the new faces here, some of you may wonder what "Prayer Walk" is and why it's on the church calendar. Each Thursday at 9 pm, Pastor Bell walks around his neighborhood and prays for the congregation, Chicagoland, our country and the world. He also prays for those on the church's prayer list and whatever private prayer requests he receives. He started this practice in Texas, during the COVID lockdown in 2020, and has continued it ever since. Feel free to reach out anytime if there is something you want him to pray for on his walks.



MISSION HAPPENINGS

MISSIONS meeting

Missions Meeting on October 1 at 4:30 pm. We will be meeting to review our quarterly distributions as well as plan for evaluating the Giving Tree Gift Program applications.



"Cooking with Care" meets this month on Tuesday, October 13 at 9:30 am. Come and join this crew of cooks and make some new friends!



The "Palos Food Pantry" always appreciates our many donations. October's requests include: soup, canned juice, canned fruit, salad dressing, tuna, canned meats and baby food. As always, thanks for your support!



Help Support the Manteno Veterans Home and fill the blue boxes in the narthex. On October 29, the Manteno Home will be having a Halloween party for the vets. Any donations of treats or candy (no peanuts, please) would be appreciated for their party. They can also use: packaged crackers, snack cakes, new greeting cards, postage stamps, 2027 calendars, diet canned pop, individual bags of chips and cookies, cereal bars, gallon-size Hawaiian Punch and diabetic socks. Thank you for remembering the Vets!



ADULT EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

As the program year begins, now is a great time to get involved. These groups are open to all and if you have questions about what may be the best one for you, call the church office. Now's the time!

MONDAY: "Just A Quick Word" - YouTube and FB. Mondays at 4:00 pm. Pastor Bell will talk about the how faith intersects with life.

"Body and Soul" Men's Basketball on Mondays at 8. As the weather begins to turn, join us on Mondays to get some healthy exercise alongside some good guys from church and the neighborhood.



TUESDAY: "Faith, Prayer and Joy" Small Group on Tuesdays at 9:30 am. We will continue our series "The Bible With & Without Jesus."



Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. We just began exploring the book of Job. It's a powerful book that speaks to God's presence when it feels like the world is falling apart. Sound familiar? If so, this study is for you.

Discovering the Bible on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. The work of the Spirit in the early church teaches us a lot. Come and explore the final bits of the book of Acts regardless of whether you've done lots of Bible study or never opened the book before.



"Spiritual Fitness" - Woman's Bible Study Meets monthly on the third Monday of each month in Bethany Hall at 1:00 pm. Come join us on October 19 with author Lisa Toney's book/video, "Not One Moment Late-Trusting God's Timing for Your Life." (There we will meet Deborah in the Book of Judges.) The study will be presented by Deanna Wachholz. Your Hostess will be Ann Petersen with Linda Francis providing the monthly Inspirational Reading. The afternoon closes with refreshments and lots of good conversation. Welcome! Galatians 5:22

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Gamers Anonymous



Our game day will be on Wednesday October 7. We start playing at 1:00 and play till about 3:00 pm. Anyone who likes to play fun, fast and easy card and dice games is welcome to join us.

Even if you have never played before we are always learning new games. We would love to have you come and join the fun.

CHURCH GARDENS



The church gardens have looked amazing all season long thanks to the dedicated garden team!

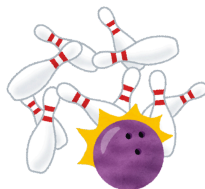
Everyone worked hard at tackling the never-ending weeds, hot days of summer, crazy storms, pruning, shaping, digging, and making it all very colorful and vibrant.

Thank you 2026 garden team: Linda Hubbard, Renee Wright, Dave Holke, Deane Meier, Pam Pyka, Shirley Bennett, Sue Hennessey, Melinda Moore, Ed Schussler, Brian Wright and Bill Hubbard.

Next year's gardens will be awaiting you in the spring.

BOWLING

Bowling League meets this month on Saturday, October 10 at 3:15 pm. If you are interested in joining a team and/or subbing, please contact Donna in the office. We could really use another bowler or two. So come and join us and "let the good times ROLL!!!"



CHOIR INFORMATION



Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm and is open to high school ages and up.

Carillon Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 6:30 pm and is open to all high school ages and up.

Flute Choir rehearsals vary and are open to anyone with a history of playing the flute. Contact the church office or Joy Ausec for more information.

Junior Choir rehearses on Mondays at 6:00 pm and is open to all those in grades 3 through 8.

Cherub Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:00 am and is open to all children age 3 through 2nd grade.

"OFF" Club

Our monthly meeting will take place on Wed., October 21.

Meetings start at 11:00; lunch is \$8.00 monthly. Everyone over the age of 55 is welcome. Please call Bonnie Sweeney if you plan on attending the October meeting and have not yet signed up.

This is very important so that we have enough food for everyone. This month we will be playing **White Elephant Bingo**. Everyone attending needs to bring a wrapped White Elephant gift which will be used as prizes.



YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

**June 28 - July 2,
2027 ELCA
Youth Gathering**



**REGISTRATION DEADLINE is
OCTOBER 18!!!!**

We had an awesome turnout for our info luncheon for next summer's Youth Gathering!

If you are interested in coming and missed the meeting, reach out to Pastor Bell ASAP! The deadline to register for the Gathering is October 18!! This is much earlier than our other trips so don't miss out! See Pastor Bell for details and registration forms.



Confirmation
—Classes—

Confirmation classes are rolling along. As an FYI, 8th grade will **NOT MEET** on Oct. 11 for Columbus Day/ Indigenous People's Day while 6th & 7th grade will **NOT MEET** on Oct. 12.

YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES!

SEE ALL THAT IS HAPPENING

2nd Sunday-Taskmaster October 11 – 6:30 pm



*Come and join us for our first "2nd Sunday" of the fall with a competition called **Taskmaster**. You and your team will use*

your brains, speed, reading skills to complete 3 unusual tasks! Winner takes home FABULOUS PRIZES. Also wear clothes that...can take a stain. After that we will have a short devotion, prayer and then head off to get some ice cream at *The Plush Horse!* Sign up on the youth bulletin board or through the church email. See Pastor Bell for more details!

Feed My Starving Children October 17

*We will once again have our confirmation fall service project at **Feed My Starving Children** in **Aurora**. Due to schedule changes*

at FMSC locations, we will be packing on Saturday, October 17 from 2 pm to 3:45 pm. We will need parents as well as students per FMSC requirements. Close-toed shoes are required and please leave ALL jewelry at home. We have lots of spots, and I would love to fill them all, so bring friends and family ages 5 and up! For more details, if you need a ride to their facility or if you have questions, see Pastor Bell.



Sunday school is off to a great start!



All kids ages 3 and completely potty trained through 5th Grade are encouraged to join us on Sunday mornings at 11 am.

Meet our wonderful Teachers: Rachel Buresh, Kalleigh Miskovic, Sarah Massett, Joanna Bergmann, Melinda Moore, Barb Chudy and Debi Pope. They are excited to share God's Word through many activities. Please check your child in at the Welcome Table at the top of the stairs by the Main Office. Feel free to bring a friend along!

Sunday school Kids in Action!



*Help us collect and recycle Bread Tags for a non-profit organization, "**Danielle Cares for Chairs**." The organization collects bread tags, recycles*

them and then uses the money from recycling tags to help those in need of wheelchairs. Our Sunday school classes will be collecting each month going forward. You may turn in the bread tags to a Sunday school classroom collection container, the Sunday school Welcome Table, or Mrs. Lori's office. Lots of fun with this collection is planned throughout our program year!!



The Church Nursery is available for parents to take advantage of.

Meet our wonderful Caregivers: April Strand, Wendy Mayers, Michelle Bendoraitis, Kate Kadlec and Amy Hagedorn. They are available to care for your little ones while you attend the 11 am Worship Service.

Early Childhood Ministry invites you!

Calling ALL Parents of Infants through Kindergarten . . . Mark your calendars for November 7 and join us for a musically wonderful time with Miss Angie of Miss Angie's Music. This is a parent and tot opportunity to gather with other parents and kiddos from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. A free will offering donation will be taken. Invite a friend to join you! RSVP sheet is on the bulletin board by the Church Nursery or email Mrs. Lori.



FROLIC MONTHLY ENEWSLETTER . . .

is available to all families with a newborn through age 3. This newsletter strives to give families information and ideas that can begin laying the foundation of faith for their young children. It is delivered to your email inbox and can be read at any time that is convenient. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Lori.