NOVEMBER 2026

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

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

SOUTH AFRICA TRIP!



Members of Good Shepherd are joining a larger delegation from the synod to visit our partners in South Africa. While there, the group will join Jubilate Parish in Kagiso for Sunday Worship along with seeing how God is at work in a new context. Please keep the delegation in your prayers during their journey.

IMMANUEL'S ORDINATION.



Our previous intern, Immanuel, has been called to serve as pastor for Trinity Lutheran Church in Oak Lawn. All are invited to join him and his family at his ordination service which will take place on Sunday, November 15 at Grace Lutheran Church in La Grange (200 N Catherine Ave.) beginning at 3 pm. Come and share this special day of recognizing God's amazing work at lifting up leaders.

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SPECIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Giving thanks to God is paramount to the life of those following Jesus. The National Day of Thanksgiving gives us an opportunity to pause and give ourselves time to reflect on the many blessings we have and give thanks to God and the vessels God uses to help those blessings flow to us and our world.

It is in that spirit that we invite you to join us for special services around the Thanksgiving holiday:

Thanksgiving Eve Services on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 pm
Thanksgiving Day Services on Thursday, November 26 at 10:00 am

SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER



November 1 is All Saints Sunday & Time Change (Fall Back). As we recall the faithful saints who helped us know God, we gather together, united by the one who came that brought them hope and brings us hope. Get an extra hour of sleep that evening (turn your clocks back) and then join with all the saints in worship.



November 22 is Christ the King Sunday. The final Sunday of the church calendar reminds us how Jesus is the one and only king.



November 29 is the beginning of the Advent season. We begin the trek towards Christmas by recognizing how our timeless God journeys with us in our waiting.

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 – OCTOBER, 2026

BAPTISMS:
Heidi Marie DeWolf – September 26, 2026



WEDDINGS:
Garrett Wolan and Jessica Taylor– October 17, 2026



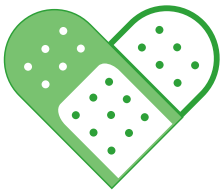
NEW PARENTS:
Doug and Megan Lotter, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth



NEW MEMBERS:
Bryanne Misch and Dolores Duch



KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN ILL OR HOSPITALIZED:
Ellen Thiele, Joyce Pedersen, Dave Holke, Matthew Vitt, JoAnn Montecki, Barb Bergamo, Matt Brett, Gail Kendall, Shirley Hulse, Lori Cronin, Barry Garr, Jr., Gerhard Haigis, Jim Srbeny , Bill Innocenti, Bonnie Elzinga, Bob Held and Rosemary Ihle



KNOWN TO HAVE EXPERIENCED BEREAVEMENT:
The Babcock family upon the passing of Beth



FUNERALS:

- *Barbara Spellman* – September 26, 2026
- *Shelly Spellman* - September 26, 2026
- *Jürgen Daartz* – October 3, 2026 - Coming to Good Shepherd in 2022, Jürgen brought his friendliness and wit in connecting with people and leaving a memorable legacy. Our prayers go to his step-son Walter Hojka and his other family and friends.

IMPORTANT NEWS & INFORMATION



3RD QUARTER STATEMENTS WITH THANKSGIVING LETTER: Be on the look out for your 3rd Quarter giving statement accompanied with a letter highlighting the Thanksgiving season at Good Shepherd. We mail these so you can review them and get back to us if you notice a significant discrepancy and also use it for planning for the months ahead. Contact us if you have not received yours by November 16.

LEADERSHIP 2027: Is God Calling You To Get Involved? As we look towards the next year, we are preparing the slate of leaders at Good Shepherd. If you feel God inviting you to get involved, please contact Pastor Chris.





MINIMIZING PLASTICS: For the last several months, the Deacons have been working on ways to minimize Good Shepherd's use of disposable plastics that then end up in landfills and harm our environment. They are working on a handout to share some things to consider if you are hosting an event at the church. Please make sure to pick one up and help us be good stewards of this blessed world God has given.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON JANUARY 24: Please mark the date and be a part of hearing what God has done thru Good Shepherd in the last year and help us look forward to how we can be part of God's work in 2027.



GIVING THANKS FOR MISSIONS



WARM HEARTS SPREAD WARMTH

The Mission Committee is having a drive to collect new and gently used coats and blankets by Nov. 22. This will benefit those supported by Beds Plus and So. Suburban Pads.



Missions Meeting on November 18 at 4:30 pm. At this meeting we will review the applicants for the 2027 Good Shepherd Giving Tree Gift. Please review those applications in advance as we look to share Gods abundance with others.

"Cooking with Care" meets this month on Tuesday, November 10 at 9:30 am. Come and join this crew of cookers and make some new friends!



Tuesday, November 10 is Veterans Day! What an important time to remember our vets at the Manteno Veterans Home. They could use new greeting cards, postage stamps, 2027 calendars, diabetic socks, snack-sized candy, diet canned pop, individual bags of chips & cookies, cereal & candy bars, gallon-size Hawaiian Punch, packaged crackers (cheese & peanut butter) and snack cakes. The vets give thanks for our many donations!



The "Palos Food Pantry" always appreciates our many donations. November's requests include: non- perishable food items, Thanksgiving dinner food items such as: stuffing mix, canned sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, canned veggies, Jell-O, cranberry sauce, biscuit/roll mix and dessert. Any items brought by Sunday, November 15 will be used by the pantry to make Thanksgiving Dinner bags for their clients so that they can prepare a blessed holiday meal. Additional donations received after that time will be brought forward at our Thanksgiving services and given to the pantry for distribution.



Give thanks Give thanks Give thanks

GIVING THANKS FOR ADULT EDUCATION

We Give Thanks to God through Growing to Know God.

The groups of Good Shepherd exist to help us all grow to know God.

MONDAY:



"Just A Quick Word" - YouTube and FB. Mondays at 4:00 pm. Pastor Bell will talk about matters of life and faith.

"Body and Soul" Men's Basketball on Mondays at 8. Let's have some fun and get a little exercise as the weather changes. Come and run around with Pr. Chris and a good group of guys.



TUESDAY:



"Faith, Prayer and Joy" Small Group on Tuesdays at 9:30 am. We are doing the series: *Reading the Bible with Bonhoeffer.* Come and Join us.

Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Job and his friends reflect on suffering a lot. If you are curious about where God fits in suffering, or just want to have a lively time, join us on Tuesdays.

Discovering the Bible on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. As we conclude the book of Acts, we're seeing the Spirit at work. This month will likely see us begin a new study so it's a great time to join in.



DIG into the WORD



"Spiritual Fitness" - Woman's Bible Study Meets monthly on the third Monday of each month in Bethany Hall at 1:00 pm. On Nov. 16, come and enjoy the final studies of Deborah in "Not One Moment Late--Finding the courage to face the unknown" (Book /Video) *Hostess:* Debbie Keuper, *Inspirational Reading*: Nancy Westlund, *Bible Study Lesson:* Angela Bell. We'd love to have you around the table with us in friendship, as we grow together in God's word and deepen our faith.

GIVING THANKS FOR GROUP ACTIVITIES

GAMERS ANONYMOUS



Our game day will be on Wednesday, November 4. 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.

CHANCEL GUILD MEETING



This group coordinates preparing and cleaning up from communion on a weekly basis. People usually volunteer to help once a month and are paired with one or two other people.

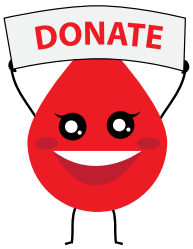
Consider coming to the meeting on November 4 at 7 pm and volunteering for a day or two. You'll get to meet some great people and help in a very meaningful and appreciated way.

PALOS HEIGHTS HOLIDAY PARADE



Join in the fun by representing Good Shepherd in this year's 7th Annual Palos Heights Holiday Parade! Please sign up to walk or ride in a vehicle with our Good Shepherd group down Harlem Avenue, enjoy the festivities, and pass out candy and flyers to everyone along the parade route. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of the offices, or call the church office. The parade kicks off at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, December 5. Please park in the St. Al's Catholic Church parking lot and meet there at 10:15 am. We will have santa hats and candy too.

BLOOD DRIVE



It's time for the winter blood drive hosted by the Church and Community Committee! Mark the date: Sunday, Dec. 6 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Family Life Ctr.

You can sign up on Sunday mornings in the narthex, online by scanning the QR code on the flyer on the events bulletin board, or by calling the church office at 708-448-4170.

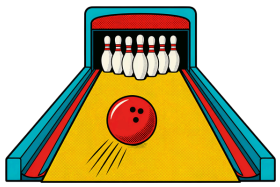
If you can't donate, please let your friends, relatives and neighbors know about the blood drive – it's open to anyone. If you'd like to help promote the drive, please call the church office. Youths 16 and 17 years old can donate with a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian. Versiti provides snacks afterward, and the church provides doughnuts from Orland Park Bakery.

"OFF" Club



We meet on Wednesday, Nov. 18 starting at 11:00 am. After our meeting, we will be enjoying our traditional Thanksgiving dinner. **This meeting is for paid members only**. As this meal is catered, if you were not at the October meeting, it is imperative that you call Bonnie Sweeney by Wednesday, November 11 to RSVP. After lunch, members will enjoy a movie.

BOWLING



Ready to roll into some fun? Bowling meets this month on Saturday, November 14 at 3:15 pm. Get ready for the turkey shoot (most pins over average after 3 games wins a small prize, per team)!! 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 STRIKE up some fun at the bowling alley.

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS



Pastor Chris is thankful for our great 8th Grade Confirmation group. It's been a blast thus far this year and we'll be meeting again every Sunday this month EXCEPT November 29.

Pastor Bell and Mrs. Lori are also very grateful for their confirmation students and the time spent with them on Monday evenings. Remember, there is no class on Monday, Nov. 23.

Speaking of Confirmation...Mrs. Lori is wondering if you might like to help with the Children's Christmas Service! She's looking for additional volunteers to narrate. Your attendance would be needed on rehearsal dates and of course the Service (Sunday, Dec. 20). If you are interested in joining us, please see Mrs. Lori.

GIVING THANKS FOR YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

2ND SUNDAY- K-1 INDOOR GO-KARTS NOVEMBER 8 - 2:00 PM

We are going racing on Nov. 8 at K-1 Indoor racing in Mokena. This is open to all 6th-12th graders and their friends, and parents. Racers must be 58" (4'10") or taller and that requirement is set by the venue. It's free to watch, but we are asking for $25 per driver, but please don't let money stop you from coming. You must RSVP by Nov. 1.

GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH GIFT CARD SALE!



'Tis the season for the youth gift card sale!! Not only do gift cards make great Christmas gifts, but they can help fund Good Shepherd's Trip to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis!

You pay the normal value for the gift card and the youth group receives a percentage of the sale. It's a great way to get some Christmas shopping done and support the church.

An order form is attached to the newsletter and can be found on the youth bulletin board and in the office. Please turn in orders by Sunday, November 29. There will be an envelope on Pastor Bell's door you can drop them in. Gift cards should be available for pickup on Sunday, December 6.



thank♡you

Thank YOU to all of our Trunk or Treat Volunteers and to those that donated candy!! It was wildly successful because of YOU and we appreciate your time and efforts!

LEFTOVER HALLOWEEN CANDY??



Have leftover or too much Halloween Candy? Everyone is invited to share their Halloween candy! The candy has gone to various organizations, our service men and women, and has been used for the gingerbread house decorating in December. Collection will take place on November 1.

FAMILY FAITH-AT-HOME BUILDER
"GIVE THANKS" SCRIPTURE SCRATCH-OFF



Pick up a Scratch-off packet at the Sunday school Welcome Table. Each day in November, scratch off one bubble, read the scripture passage and then pray the prayer suggested as a family.

MISS ANGIE'S MUSIC



Attention Parents of Infants through Kindergarteners...Miss Angie's Music event will take place on November 7 from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Miss Angie entertains both parent and child with fun and interactive musical activities. A free will offering donation will be taken. Friends are welcome, too. RSVP by November 5 either by signing up on the bulletin board or email Mrs. Lori.



PLEASE KEEP COLLECTING THOSE BREAD TAGS! THANK YOU!!

CHRISTMAS WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

A BELOVED TRADITION CONTINUES...
CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE L.S.S.I FOSTER CHILDREN



The Foster Children's wish lists will be available on November 15 and November 22 in the Narthex. We will have the opportunity to help many children in foster care feel loved and special. You may also stop by during the week of November 15 to pick up a child's name. Gifts will need to be brought to church on or before December 6.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING IS AROUND THE CORNER!



December 6 from 12 Noon – 2 pm

A free will offering will be taken for both the Gingerbread Houses and Lunch.

All ages are welcome to join us for an afternoon of fellowship that is sticky and sweet!

Lunch, from POPS, will be served.
Due to the popularity of this event you will need to RSVP to reserve your house and let us know your lunch choice by December 2.

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board or email Mrs. Lori.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Attention ALL Sunday school families!

SAVE THESE DECEMBER DATES!

We have begun planning for our Children's Christmas Service to be held on December 20 at 4 pm.

This is a time-honored tradition of having our children share the story of Jesus' birth with family and friends. All children in Sunday school are encouraged to participate.

The practices for this service are:
December 12 and December 19 from 10:30 am - 12 Noon.

Please let us know your child will be participating by marking the participation sheet at the Sunday school Welcome Table or email Mrs. Lori as soon as possible.





LOST ITEM:

One of our members lost a very sentimental piece of jewelery on Sunday, October 25. It is a delicate filigreed gold lavolier (pendant) with a small raised diamond in the center and a seed pearl on the bottom. If anyone has seen it, please contact the church office. Thank you!