



### Our Mission Statement

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

### Our Vision Statement

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
- Prioritizing Love over Judgment
- Practicing Grace
- Welcoming All
- Generously Serving
- Fostering Community

## April begins with Holy Week...

### **Maundy Thursday Service on April 2 at 7:30 pm.**

We wash feet, share a unique Holy Communion experience and come before God as Jesus' Passion begins.



### **Good Friday Services on April 3 at 12:30 pm and 7:30 pm.**

The reflective service at midday gathers us as Jesus time on the cross begins. The Tenebrae service at 7:30 pm invites us to feel the depth of this day through music from the Adult Choir and the ambiance growing darker during our worship.



## April continues with the joy of EASTER!

### **Eggstravaganza on April 4 from 10-11 am**

**rain or shine!** The kids have a great time gathering eggs from the front lawn!! Make plans to join us and feel free to bring family, friends, and neighbors with you!! Grandparents bring your grandkids!! **Refreshments will be available** and donations of muffins, coffee cakes, donut holes or cookies will be of great help. If you can help provide these yummy treats, they can be brought into church by 12 noon on Fri., April 3 or by 9 am On Sat. April 4. See more information on page 5.



## Easter Services on Sunday, April 5.



**Sunrise service at 6:30 am.** The break of day brings celebration as the tomb is found empty. A light breakfast of donuts and treats will greet us after service.

**Festival services at 9 am and 11 am.** The full pomp and festive nature is felt as we gleefully respond: **HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA.**

**Why Good Shepherd???** I often ask this question of people who choose to join the church. The overwhelming response is that they felt welcome here by the staff as well as other members. As Easter is a time when many choose to visit, be part of practicing the spiritual gift of hospitality and making people feel welcome. This can include introducing yourself to someone you don't know, leaving a parking spot nearer the door for a visitor, offering help with navigating the service, pointing out where the restrooms are or a number of other actions. Let's continue to be a "caring fellowship" that is "welcoming all" (taken from Mission Statement and Core Values).



**Rummage Sale Save the Date: May 1 and 2.** See page 2 for more details.



**CONFIRMATION service update:** Our Confirmation service is usually at the end of April. Due to scheduling issues with this year's class, the service will be on Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 pm. Please put that on your calendars and take part in this special day with our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families. The class will be sharing in their First Communion at the 11 am service on Sunday, May 10.

# People of Good Shepherd - March 2026 Report

## Baptisms

Eloise Ada Wagner — March 1, 2026  
Theodore Richard Utigard — March 8, 2026  
George Paul McNaughton — March 8, 2026  
Wesley Thomas Tomasik — March 22, 2026



## New Parents/Grandparents

Corey and Annette Bergamo, a son, Roman Michal, grandson of Barb and Corey Bergamo



## Known to have been ill or hospitalized

Nick Slager, Myrna Bronson, Bob Ekhart, Cheryl Davidovitch, Marilyn Garr, Jerry Gunderson, Tom Kozlowski, Gerhard Haigis, Jim Srbeny, Larri Lyn Rauch, Gail Kendall, Jerry Kendall, Bill Innocenti, Nicole Baldwin, Liam Garr, Judy Siwak, Mary Emeritz and Lynn Evers



Sick *or*  
Hospitalized

## Known to have Experienced Bereavement

Nancy Harrington upon the passing of her cousin, Louis Uza and her friend, Paula Azzarello  
Carol Miller and Jill Price upon the passing of their family friend, David Gottman  
Susan Boughan upon the passing of her husband, Clint  
The family and friends of Connie Lamparter  
Bill and Kathy Webber upon the passing of Kathy's brother, Tim Roulo



## Funerals

† **Karen Rascher** — **March 13, 2026**

† **Lucette Held** — **March 17, 2026** – Beloved by many in the community and at church, her presence at Good Shepherd lives on through the lives she touched in the bell choir, Spiritual Fitness and her depth of care for people. Our love goes out to her beloved husband Bob as well as her children Steven, Greg and Patrice along with their families and her many friends.



## **The Garage Sale is Here!**

**Setup: April 26 – April 30**

**Sale: Friday, May 1, 8 am – 3 pm and Saturday, May 2, 8 am – Noon.**



**It's that time! Our Garage Sale is returning the first weekend in May** and we need lots of help to make it happen. So let us help you declutter the house or clear out a storage unit.

**As a reminder, we can no longer accept the following:** Televisions, computer monitors, car seats, cribs, bed frames, mattresses, sofa-beds, entertainment centers, dining hutches, cookbooks and any electronic item that doesn't work. **If you donate linens**, it is helpful if you mark the size of the sheets/blankets with

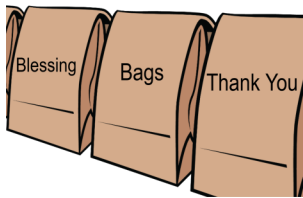
tape to help out our volunteers. **Any furniture** should be in excellent condition and, outside of hardwood and antiques, made after 2000. *We appreciate all our donations but don't want to accept what we cannot sell!*

**We will be setting up tables right after worship on April 26** and then receiving, sorting and pricing items **Monday through Wednesday till Noon** in preparation for the sale Friday and Saturday morning. We also need lots of help with teardown after the sale is done on Saturday.

So, there are lots of chances for service hours and we can find work for just about anyone. See the Youth Bulletin Board or Pastor Bell for details.



## The Joy of Missions




### Easter Blessing Bag

**Thank You:** Thank you to everyone who filled up an Easter Blessing Bag this year. These bags support the clients of the Palos

Food Pantry, helping them know God's love and the joy of Easter. Thanks for making those things real to people in challenging times.



**Missions Meeting:** The Missions Committee will be meeting on Thursday, April 23 at 4:30 pm to review how to support God's work outside our walls.

The **next "Cooking with Care"** **date** is Tuesday, April 14 at 9:30 am.  Come and join us!



We continue to take food to the **Palos Food Pantry**. April's special request for the food pantry is baby food, tuna, Tuna Helper, canned meat, canned fruit, cake mixes and frosting.

**Remembering our veterans** at the Manteno vets home. Specific needs include: men and women's diabetic socks and any of the following: canned pop, gallon size Hawaiian Punch (regular flavor); individual snack bags, snack size candy bars, and individual bags of cookies.



**Thank you for sharing  
God's abundance  
as we celebrate  
God's love at Easter.**

*Friendly  
Reminders*

### SAVE THE DATE AND FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- **Deacons' Picnics Save the Date: June 9 and 10**. Mark your calendars and be part of the fun!
- ♦ **Please do not park in the fire lanes** which are along the driveways of the church. In case of an emergency, the driveways should remain clear. Please park in the **marked parking spaces**.
- ♦ There is a **time for silent prayer and meditation** prior to the start of each service. Please respect this silence for those praying and/or meditating. Feel free to talk and catch up with your church friends as much as you would like in the narthex but try to refrain from talking loudly in the sanctuary at this time. *Thank you.*
- ♦ **The office closes at noon every Friday**. You can always leave a message on the answering machine or contact the cell phone number left on the answering message in case of an emergency.

## The Joy of Adult Ed



Easter brings with it a gift that is found as we reflect on the story of Jesus. But Jesus' story continues today as the Good News echoes through us. Take part in exploring that

good news with one of our regular small groups, Bible studies or other opportunities to gather around our faith. *Please note that our weekly groups will not meet the week after Easter.*

**"Just A Quick Word:"** We will explore the intersections of life and faith.



### "Body & Soul," Monday at 8:00

**pm in the Life Center:** March Madness may be over but we still gather for a fun time to burn some calories, have some laughs and

build some friendships.

### Faith, Prayer and Joy Small Group, Tuesday at 9:30 am in the

**Galilean Room:** We will be studying "Bible Stories for Adults" this month. Come and dig in a little deeper into some familiar biblical texts.



Weekday  
Bible Studies

**Bible Study, Tuesday at 10:30 am:** We begin the last sections of the book of Revelation. It sounds daunting but it's really a story of encouragement. Join in and find out why.

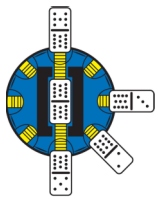
**Discovering the Bible, Tuesday at 6:30 pm:** Our struggles today have many similarities to the struggles of the early church. Find out what they are as with this great group on Tuesday evenings.



### "Spiritual Fitness" (Exercise for the Soul), 3rd Monday each month, at 1:00 pm

Study, discussion, and video continues with "Our God who rescues, redeems, & renews" in the scripture of Ruth. Leaders for the month are: Linda Francis-Hostess, Pam Stewart-Inspirational Reading, Deanna Wachholz-Bible Study Lesson. Come join us for friendship and a joyful spring afternoon.

# The Joy Of Activities



**Gamers Anonymous:** Our monthly game day will be on Wednesday April 1. Are you looking for something fun to do? We would love to have you join us. Game starts at 1:00 and we play till about 3:00. If you like fast fun games of dice and cards come and

join us. Everyone is welcome.

**Bowling:** April 11 is the next bowling date. As we near the end of the season, **please pay any amounts due from previous sessions.** **Current bowlers:** be



ready to let us know if you're returning next season. **Future bowlers:** If you are interested in joining the league and would like to form a team for the '26-27 season. *This is a casual and fun league that provides fun and fellowship!*



**Photo Directories are In:** The new photo directories are here and they look great. The church is providing one for each family. You can get yours at one of the worship services or, beginning April 8, call the office to let us know you're coming by and we can have yours ready.

**"OFF" Club:** Our meeting begins at 11:00 am on Wednesday, April 15. After a lunch of chop suey, we will have a visit by a Vietnam veteran, Frank Lasick, Jr. who suffers from PTSD and his service dog Thunder. He will discuss how important a trained service dog is for him and other military veterans. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you have not yet paid your \$20 annual dues, they are due at this time. Please notify Bonnie Sweeney a week before the meeting if you plan on attending so enough food is ordered.



**The Spring Blood Drive:** The Church and Community Committee needs donors for the spring blood drive, set for 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Sunday, May 17, in the Life Center. It's open to anyone in the community.

It's easy to sign up for an appointment.

**Do so online** at [donate.illinois.versiti.org](http://donate.illinois.versiti.org) under mobile drives, **scan the QR code** on the flyer on the events bulletin board, **sign up** when the table is in the narthex on Sundays in late April and May or **call the church office** at (708) 448-4170 or Melinda Moore.

We'll continue the tradition of providing donors with doughnuts from Orland Park Bakery, and Versiti also offers snacks and beverages. Donors should eat something at home that morning.

## Spring is a Time to Garden!

Our church grounds need "Spring Cleaning," and we'd love your help! Please join us on **Wednesday, April 22 at 5:00 pm** or **Saturday, April 25 at 9:00 am** to prepare our flower beds, plant new shrubs, and trim our trees and bushes.



No gardening experience is required—there's a job for everyone! If you have them, please bring your garden gloves, a shovel, or clippers. We'll have a sweet treat waiting for you, too!

Once the beds are ready, we'll gather again for flower planting on **Wednesday, May 13 at 5:00 pm** and **Saturday, May 16 at 9:00 am**. (Note: Rain dates are May 21 and 23).

Check the Sunday bulletins and the newsletters for more details on garden dates throughout the growing season.

**Let's make our gardens beautiful together!**



## The Joy of Our Youth and Children & Family Ministries



After a couple months off due to the basketball league, **we are back with Second Sundays!** And this month, on **April 12 at 6:30 pm**, we are mixing it up. Instead of meeting at the church, we are going to The Center on SW Highway in Palos Park. There we will spend some time learning about and walking their Prayer Labyrinth. I promise this is more fun than you might think. Pastor Bell is running it after all. We will then go to the Plush Horse for ice cream. Parents are invited to stay and walk the Labyrinth with their youth or drop them off there. They can then pick them up at 7:50 pm at The Plush Horse. Please sign up on the bulletin board or online. **We will need another chaperone to join us!**

# More Joy of Our Youth and Children & Family Ministries



**Mission Trip Group Meeting, April 12-12 pm:** We'll meet after church to go over possible work sites and jobs and look at travel details. And we will talk more about the Garage Sale coming in May. Trip participants should make every effort to attend and if one parent or other adult could come as well. Lunch will be provided. More details to come via text.

**Metro Chicago Lutheran Youth, "Ultimate Lock-In, " Friday, April 17, 10:00 pm - 5:00am:** Join us for an AMAZING night of fun and laughter with youth from all over Chicagoland ! The night will include Go-Karts, Arcade Games, Laser Tag, Mini-golf and MORE. They'll be drinks, pizza and a movie on the big screen too. This is **open to All Youth grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**. This will take place at the Enchanted Castle in Lombard and we will meet at 9:00 pm to caravan up. We will return to Good Shepherd by approx. 6 am Saturday. See Pastor Bell for more details. **Also, we need chaperones/drivers** as Pastor Bell's SUV isn't that big!



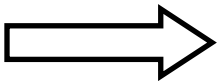
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation** is wrapping up this month. Our last meeting will be on Sunday, April 19 where we will review for our exam. Also, please have on your calendar the following: Confirmation Rehearsal on Friday, May 1 at 6:00 pm, Confirmation Service on Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 pm, First Communion on Sunday, May 10 at 11 am. Contact Pastor Chris if you have any questions.



**MORE ON THE EGGSTRAVAGANZA:** Letting us know ahead you're participating is helpful but not required. Sign-up Sheets are on the bulletin board or email Mrs. Lori. On the day of the event, **ALL** children will need to be checked in at the Welcome Table.

**Help will be needed on the day of the Easter Eggstravaganza, April 4!**

We will need MANY volunteers to help with set up, serving goodies, setting out the plastic eggs, and clean up. Service hours can be earned!! Sign-up sheets on bulletin board or email Mrs. Lori.



**Sunday School Parents please take note:** There is no Sunday school on April 5, Easter Sunday. We all worship together on this exciting and magnificent day!! **He is Risen!**



**Get ready for the summer event that guides kids in exploring the nature of God! Rainforest Falls...Vacation Bible School...July 6-10, 9:00 am - 12 Noon Registration begins May 3 and goes through June 21**

**MANY VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED** to run a successful week of Vacation Bible School. Please check the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board to see where you may like to help. It is a great blessing working alongside fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and having the opportunity to deepen the Christian Faith of many children. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Puttkammer.



**VBS 2026 Plans are underway!!** We have a list so far of some items that would be helpful with décor, crafting, snacks, and for general use during VBS. *If you can donate any of the following items, it would be greatly appreciated.* Items needed: Pkgs. of baby wipes, paper towels, empty gallon WATER jugs with caps, rolls of clear packaging tape, zipper close baggies (snack and sandwich sizes), paper drink cups (8 or 9 oz. size), parchment baking paper, paper cupcake liners, and napkins.



**VBS decorating crew needs help** tracing and cutting out palm leaves for our scenery around the church. We also need someone to cut sections of a paper roll with a miter saw. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mrs. Lori. These are projects that can be done at home.

**Save the Date!! It's Baseball season!** Mark your calendars and join us at a Thunderbolts Baseball Game on Saturday, June 27. The game begins at 6:05 pm. The theme is Elvis and there will be fireworks post-game. Tickets are \$5 per person.

