

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

AUGUST 2026

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

Listening Assistance at Worship

Last month, we introduced our new Auracast transmitter that allows people with hearing aids, cochlear implants or other listening devices to connect directly to our sound system. If you think you would benefit from this help, sheets that give directions on how to connect to the system can be found in the narthex. If that doesn't help you, contact your audiologist or search online if your particular listening device is compatible with this new technology.

Welcome to Good Shepherd Night

New Members and Visitors

Gathering, Tuesday, Aug 25 at 7:00 pm.

This annual event is for everyone who has become a member in the last year, is thinking about becoming a member or just curious about Good Shepherd. We spend time getting to know one another, sharing a bit about the history and the structure of the congregation, outlining ways to be involved in the life of the church and answering questions you may have. Come with your questions and enjoy a casual time getting to know what God's doing through this wonderful community. To help us plan, call the church office to let us know if you're attending.



VBS WAS AWESOME

Rainforest Falls VBS had

200 Kids and 120 volunteers discovering the Nature of God. God is our Creator, He knows everything, He is our safe place, He is love, and God is forever. While walking through the Rainforest, the kids visited Opening Worship, Tune Lagoon Music, Sticky Scripture, Rooted Bible Adventures, Wild Games, Treetop Treats & Pretzel, and Canopy Crafts.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone!!

From donations brought in to set up/prep to the volunteer staff we were able to grow the kids' faith in Jesus. Our mission project for the week brought in 450 non-perishable food items for the Palos Food Pantry. **That's incredible!**

Our VBS success is because of each of YOU!!

thank you

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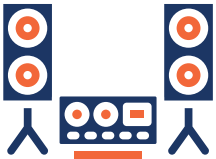
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Save The Date

**Rally Day
Sept. 13
Big Build
Sept. 26**

Tech Day at Good Shepherd on August 25 at 10:00 am.

Does one of the groups you belong to utilize the TV in the Conference Room or Bethany Hall? Would your group benefit from using the sound system in Bethany Hall? Do you just want to know more about the technology that you can take advantage of at the church? If that sounds like a group you know, we would ask that two members of your group join us at 10 am on Tuesday, August 25 so we can go through how to utilize this great technology to assist in what you do. Make plans to come so that you can be the expert in the room when your group needs help.



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 — JUNE & JULY, 2026

Marriages

Emily M. Petersen and Gunnar T. Kay – June 19, 2026



New Parents/Grandparents

CJ and Kara Niezgoda, a daughter, Sloan Livonie, granddaughter of Corey and Kim Niezgoda; Danny and Sara DeWolf, a daughter, Heidi Marie, granddaughter of Keith and Colette; Melanie and Corey Busse, a daughter, Bailey Lynn, granddaughter of Paul and Gail Behrman; Natalie and Beto Ortiz, a son, Milo Alexander, granddaughter of Lee Miller and great granddaughter of Jerry and Pat Gunderson.



New Members

Erik and Trisha Wolcott, Luke, Grace and Claire, Michelle Francisco

≡Welcome≡

Out of Area

Marie Marotta

Known to have been ill or hospitalized

Gerhard Haigis, Gary Rauch, Ernie Neely, Judy Oster, Jim Srbeny, Bill Innocenti, Beverly Muscarella, Vicki Paxson, Nancy Harrington, Tony Hladik, Barry Garr, Jr., Suellen Spooner, Mark Pries, Marsha Hladik, Lori Cronin and Shirley Hulse



Known to have Experienced Bereavement

John and Kathleen Vinson upon the passing of their relative, Michael Poch
Lucia and Allen Bofinger upon the passing of Lucia's sister, Karen Chidester
The Anderson family upon the passing of Jen's grandfather, Gene Bulian
Thomas Roesing upon the passing of his wife, Nancy, in February
The family and friends of Carole Peterson
The family and friends of Ronald Faulstich who passed away last August
Lynn Evers upon the passing of her friend, Walter Smola
Janelle Tracy upon the passing of her mother, Jolain Gervasi
Immanuel Karunakaran and family upon the passing of his father, Karunakaran Balraj



Funerals

✝ *Myrna Brejcha* - June 19, 2026 - A dedicated teacher and adorer of Native American art, Myrna was a blessing to so many whom she helped grow and nurture to gain not only knowledge but also know God's profound love. We keep her family and friends in our prayers.

✝ *Myrna Bronson* - June 20, 2026 - Myrna was partial to wearing purple outfits, helping people laugh through her "funnies" and being one of the most friendly people ever. Her memories will linger both at Good Shepherd as well as the OFF Club. We send our love to her family and friends.



Reminder

REMEMBER, **summer worship hours continue through Labor Day Weekend**, September 6. We return to regular worship hours of 9:00 and 11:00 on Rally Day, Sunday, September 13.

Can you help set up and clean up from Holy Communion? If so, please contact the church office. Our Chancel Guild could use some help. Not only would you get the satisfaction of helping with this important task, you would also get to hang out with some of the most fantastic people in the church.





SERVE THE LORD BY TAKING PART IN OUR CHOIRS THAT START BACK UP IN SEPTEMBER!



As we turn towards the start of a new program year, we're excited to hear the sounds of our choirs again. We would love to see our numbers grow in each choir, so come share your gift and meet some amazing people.



ADULT CHOIR

Open to people in high school and older, under the direction of Aaron Basch, this vocal choir is a great opportunity for anyone to make a joyful noise to the Lord. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm and begin on September 16.

CARILLON BELL CHOIR

Also open to all people in high school or older, under the direction of Michelle Podewell, this bell choir has lots of fun together. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays at 6:30 pm and begin on September 17.



FLUTE CHOIR

Under the direction of Joy Ausec, anyone with a history of playing the flute can join them, coming together to make beautiful music. Contact the church office to get connected to Joy and find out about their rehearsal schedule.

JUNIOR CHOIR

For our youth in 3rd - 8th grades, we have our vocal choir led by Michelle Podewell. This is a great way to build friendships, pursue your musical gift and have fun. Rehearsals will be on Mondays at 6:00 pm and begin on September 14.



CHERUB CHOIR

Our youngest choir for children ages 3 through 2nd grade meets on Sunday mornings from 10:30 am to 11:00 am. Miss Angie is so excited to meet, sing and "dance" with her new angelic friends! Choir will begin on Sunday, Sept. 13. Hope to see my new little friends there!

SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFT...

As we begin planning for the upcoming year, we know people have some fantastic musical abilities that we would love to showcase during worship. You would work with Michelle and/or Beth to select some music and rehearse to ensure you're all ready to let your gift testify to God's glory. Chat with either of them or contact the church office if you would like to participate.



ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

"Just A Quick Word" is on hiatus for August.



"Body and Soul" will continue during August at 8 pm in the Life Center. Start the program year by taking care of your health and meeting some new guys. We play some basketball and build relationships with some really great people. Come on out.



Weekly groups begin September 15. As we look at the year ahead, our *Faith, Prayer and Joy Group*, our *Bible Study and Discovering the Bible* are all looking forward to kicking things off for the program year on Tuesday, Sept. 15. Mark your calendars and start the year off right.

Spiritual Fitness Woman's Bible Study Summer Friendship Luncheon is being held on Monday Aug. 17, at noon at Francesca's in Palos Park. Coordinators: Nancy Westlund and Deanna Wachholz. Our next study book/video is *"Not One Moment Late-Trusting God's Timing"* by Lisa Toney. You are always welcome to join our journey of faith.



MISSION NEWS



Good Shepherd's Big Build is coming in September. Plan to join us for this great annual event on Saturday, September 26 as we build the frame of a house that will become a home to a family in need. Lots of help of all kinds will be needed on Saturday with some help also needed on Friday the 25th cutting wood and Sunday the 27th loading up the panels into the box truck. Mark your calendars so you can take part.

***The Winner of the Capital Improvement Grant is . . .
ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST OUTREACH MINISTRY!***



Our Missions' Committee has selected *All Things Through Christ Outreach Ministry* to be the recipient of this year's capital improvement grant. The funding will help transform their food distribution site to make it more client friendly.

The 2025 recipient, *The Night Ministry*, appreciated the support of new office chairs upon their anniversary to help support their staff. Thank you for your ongoing support of God's work through Good Shepherd.



"Cooking with Care" is back this month on August 11 at 9:30 am cooking for the Joliet Mission. Come join in the fun and support this ministry.

The "Palos Food Pantry" always appreciates our many donations. August requests include: canned fruit, juice, Jell-O, peanut butter, jelly, canned meat and tuna.



The Manteno Vets are in need of toiletries—big or travel size, individual packages of cookies and chips or individual packages of crackers. Diet Pop is especially needed. Donations can be placed in the blue bins in the narthex. Thank you and thank you Cheryl for delivering all these items!



GROUP ACTIVITIES AT GOOD SHEPHERD



August Gamers Anonymous

Game day this month is on Wednesday, August 5. 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 Garden Team is always looking for volunteers to water the gardens and to pull the never-ending weeds. Please contact the church office if interested in

helping throughout the summer months.

During the upcoming fall months, the garden team will be working on trimming our bushes/trees, and a couple of smaller garden projects. More details to come in our Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters.

Bowling...

begins next month on Sept. 12 at 3:15 pm. If you are interested in joining a team and/or subbing, please contact Donna in the office. This is a great way to make some new friends! Bowling information will be going out soon. Prize money for last seson's results will be awarded on the 12th. See you next month.



Get ready to roll!!!



The monthly "OFF" Club meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 19. beginning at 11:00 am. Lunch is \$8.00 monthly. **PLEASE NOTE:** For this month only, our entertainment will be **BEFORE lunch.** (Since we had to cancel the singer last month due to the storm, we had to find a time that worked for both our schedules.) Be sure to call Bonnie Sweeney by August 12 If you did not sign up for lunch at the July meeting!

YOUTH, CHILDREN and FAMILY EVENTS



Escapology – August 16,

11:30 am Lunch Included!

We are kicking off the program year with a real puzzler! Join us for a game at Escapology in Orland Park.

This is a fun filled event that involves teamwork, puzzle solving, and finding clues to help you escape before the clock strikes zero! Plus, we will have pizza lunch at Escapology before we begin. So, invite your friends, form your own team, or come and join one. We are asking \$20 a person to help defray costs, but don't let money be a barrier. See Pastor Bell for more details and questions.



Summer Sunday school continues...Join us as we explore God's love for us in fun and creative ways. We begin each Sunday through August 30 at 10 am. Plan to arrive a few minutes early to check-in your children at the Welcome Table by the staircase (nearest the church office). Help is needed...we are looking for a couple more volunteers to lead in August. If you can help, please let Mrs. Lori know.

School Year Blessing

We invite our students, teachers and staff to join us for a blessing of the school year. Whatever

district number, grade, school or position you are in. Whether you are starting pre-school or getting ready to graduate. Whether you are a teacher, administrator, professor, or support staff, if you are involved in education, we would like to bless you and your work. This will take place at both services on Sunday August 23. PLEASE bring your backpacks and bags along with you! Invite your friends or neighbors to join you too. We hope to see lots of students, teachers and staff here at Good Shepherd that weekend.



Sunday School Teachers...

a meeting is scheduled for August 19 at 6:30 pm for the important planning of the 2026-2027 school year!

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL AND BEYOND . . .



Our formal Sunday school year begins September 13 and YOU are INVITED to JOIN the TEAM!

Each week, kids are discovering who Jesus is through stories, games, crafts, music, puppetry, laughter, and love. It's beautiful. It's a little chaotic sometimes and it matters more than we realize. The Kids Ministry Team helps shape the faith in the next generation and honestly, we'd love to do it with you!!



We are looking for help in a few areas. If you are interested in joining the Team, please email Mrs. Lori, sign-up on the bulletin board or give Mrs. Lori a call. Those of confirmation age to adult are encouraged to share their love of God with our youngest members. If you are in Jr. High or High School, this would be a great way to earn service hours.



Confirmation Is Coming Soon!

Just a reminder that if you are or have a 6th - 8th Grade Youth, confirmation will be kicking off in September. You should be getting a letter in the next couple weeks and if you don't receive one let us know! If you have any questions, have a friend who wants to join in, or whatever, contact Pastor Bell.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL AND BEYOND . . .

Nursery Needs

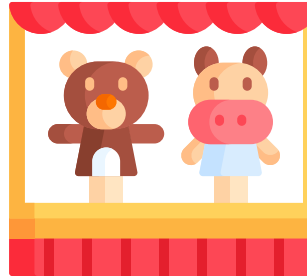
Our Church Nursery plans to have caregivers to care for our little ones beginning September 13 during the 11 am service. If you would like to become a caregiver, please contact Mrs. Lori.



2027 Youth Gathering June 28 – July 2, 2027

Pastor Bell is currently reaching out to all our

8th -12th grade youth about coming to the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet, serve and worship with about 20,000 other youth from around the country! Pastor Andrew is looking forward to leading the group on another Gathering and with a shorter drive this time! So, mark your calendars for June 28 – July 2, 2027. It will be here before you know it.



Puppet Troupe - Calling all Sunday School Kids and Teens! Have you ever wanted to try your hand at puppetry? (No pun intended!) Well, here's your chance with the **"Good News Gang."** It's open

to any girl or boy, 10 years old and older. There is no memorization involved. Each character has a highlighted script to follow on the stage. All that is needed is to read well and move your hand to make the puppet's mouth speak. We practice downstairs in the kitchen on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:10 am with the performance in Bethany Hall at 11:00 am for the Sunday School children. Talk with your parents and if you're interested, call the office at 708-448-4170 and we'll put you in touch with Jan Nelson.



SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION . . .



Directory - We are waiting on the proof of the annual printed directory. Once that is received and reviewed, it will be printed and mailed. We will keep you updated on its progress.

Lost & Found - Don't forget to check the lost and found in the coat room closest to Pr. Bell's office for any clothing, umbrellas, water bottles & other items that might be yours. Jewelry and glasses are in boxes in the office on the table in front of Donna's desk.



Deacon Statements

Second Quarter statements will be available August 10. If you would like yours, please call the office. It can be emailed, mailed or picked up in the office. The 3rd and 4th quarter statements will be mailed as soon as they are completed.



A WORD OF THANKS to Linda Hubbard and Renee Wright and their team who volunteer to keep up our church grounds, (even in the sweltering heat). Everything looks awesome! THANK YOU!