



**Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church**

7800 W. McCarthy Rd.,
Palos Heights, IL 60463
www.good-shepherd-church.com
708-448-4170

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



The season of Lent begins with special services on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**

at 10:30 am and 7:30 pm. Join us to begin this season of prayer and reflection together. **The day will also feature a lunch**

for any who would like to fellowship alongside others. **We ask that you RSVP for the meal**, which will be after the early service (apx. 11:30 am) by calling the church office. For those wanting ashes but unable to attend service, we are offering drive-thru ashes in the back of the church building from 5:00-5:30 pm.

Lent 2026 will look a little different at Good Shepherd. Through out the season, a station offering various opportunities to lift up and share prayers will be created in the sanctuary. Stop by the station and give one of these prayer practices a try.



During the Wednesdays in Lent (not including Holy Week), we will have special services. This year, the morning ones and evening ones will offer different experiences. **The morning service** will begin at 10:30 am and will be a time of guided prayer. **The evening service** begins at 7:30 pm and follows the theme: *Prayers of the Senses*. Each week will walk us through experiencing prayer using different sensory abilities. The evening service will also highlight our 8th graders sharing their *Witness to the Faith*.

Wednesday evenings during Lent will see us again share a meal together at 6:15 pm in the Life Center with food provided each week by a different ministry group. Inspired by one of our 8th graders, Noah Bergmann, we will allocate all the freewill offerings from these meals to the charity *Save the Children*. Come enjoy some good food alongside great people and support a good cause.



Thank you to everyone for participating in this years Annual Meeting. All those elected to positions of leadership will be recognized and **formally installed during our worship services on Sunday, February 22.** If you were elected, please make every effort to attend and for everyone else, please come to prayerfully lift them up.



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Witness to the Faith Schedule: During the evening Lenten services on the dates indicated, our 8th graders will be sharing their Witness to the Faith on the assigned topic. This is a meaningful part of their Confirmation process and we hope you'll attend offering great encouragement.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Topic</u>
2/25	Noah Bergmann	John 1:1-5
	Emma Sage	Ephesians 2:8-10
3/4	Eloise Wagner	Psalms 23
	Grace Wolcott	Romans 8:38-39
3/11	Garrett Pempek	Matthew 22:37-39
	Jack Wiltgen	Matthew 28:19-20

<u>Date</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Topic</u>
3/18	Vivienne Pegorin	John 3:16-17
	Lukas Bort	Micah 6:6-8
3/25	Tate Spencer	John 13:34-35



People of Good Shepherd – January 2026 Report

New Members

Jeannine Sherman, Beverly Muscarella, Laura and Martin Sullivan



New Parents/Grandparents

Kate and Nicholas Manusos, a son, Matthew Val, grandson of Matt and Michele Brett



Known to have been ill or hospitalized

Judy Lang, Suellen Spooner, Michael Marasovich, Caryle Roegner, Jim Srbeny, Larri Lyn Rauch, Robin Manning, Gail Kendall, Jerry Kendall, Lucette Held, Jim Sheehan, Bill Innocenti, Nicole Baldwin, Tom Kozlowski, Gerhard Haigis, Gail Lobsinger, Ernie Neely, Joe Schmitt, Jerry Gunderson and Grant Spooner



Known to have Experienced Bereavement

Carol Miller upon the passing of her sister-in-law, Patricia Perch
Rich & Luz Jelinek upon the passing of Luz's mother, Guadalupe Garcia
The family and friends of Gladys Guess
Lynn Evers upon the passing of her friend, Andy Zilis
Dawn and Bruce Bronson upon the passing of Bruce's mother, Nancy McCord Bronson
Kurt and Betsy Karlson upon the passing of Kurt's mother, Arlene Karlson
Matt Booe upon the passing of his friend, Cathy Chapulis
The Kirkner family upon the passing of their neighbor, Mike Sternquist



Funerals

- † *Richard R. Peterson* — December 26, 2025
- † Thomas Paus — January 10, 2026 — A beloved presence at Good Shepherd, Thom's smiling face is remembered by all whom he encountered. We lift up in prayer his family and friends, especially Sharon Phee.
- † William Johnsen — January 17, 2026 — Past president of the OFF Club and devoted in his faith, Bill left a legacy of dedication to his family, especially his beloved wife June. We keep her, his children, his family and friends in our prayers.



My sincerest appreciation for all the lovely cards and kind words from you, dear friends. Thank you to the pastors and staff, (past and present) for making these last 25 years more than just a job. When entering the wooden doors, I always felt like I was 'Home' with 'Family'. Thank you also for the wonderful friendships made, from the young puppeteers who I watched grow into such amazing adults, to the congregation and groups who are 'young at heart'. I will always be thankful for every minute.

Love,
Jan Nelson



IMPORTANT DATES TO SAVE:

EASTER BLESSING BAGS COLLECTION ~ Bags will be distributed on March 15 & 22 for collection between March 22 and 29.

HOLY WEEK: Week of March 29

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA ~ April 4 from 10-11 am. Invite a neighbor or friend!

EASTER SUNDAY: April 5

GARAGE SALE ~ May 1, 8 am to 3pm; May 2, 8am to Noon

CONFIRMATION SERVICE ~ May 3 at 2:00 pm

VBS WEEK ~ July 6-10, 9 am to Noon



Reflecting on Missions



"Cooking with Care" is taking this month off. We'll see you in March on March 10.

Don't forget our veterans!

The Manteno vets home is in need of the following: Diabetic socks, cans of diet pop, individual bags of snacks such as Lay's potato chips, Cheetos and Doritos and individual bags of cookies such as Oreos, Chips-A-Hoy, butter and peanut butter. Thank you for continuing to remember these veterans.



Fill the Pantry

We continue to take food to the Palos Food Pantry.

February request includes: Spaghetti O's, canned ravioli, canned meats, canned fruit, crackers and baby food. The need continues and donations of any other items are always appreciated.

The Missions Committee

encourages you to read the thank you letters received from those we supported this past year which are posted on the Missions' bulletin board and in Tuesday's weekly email. We continue to focus our support to the many worthwhile efforts of Christian care and service with which we have come in contact. Great care is used to ensure that our gifts are used faithfully and with care. Please continue to use your yellow monthly mission envelopes dedicated for mission support and help our church in aiding the relief efforts, lifting up these needy causes.



Thank You!

Reflecting on Other Group Activities

GAMERS ANONYMOUS: Weather permitting, we'll meet on Wednesday, Feb. 4 for our game day. We start at 1:00 and play till about 3:00. If you like fast fun games of dice and cards come & join us. Everyone is welcome!



BOWLING: February 14 is our next bowling session and it's **Valentine Hershey Kiss Night!** Instructions will be given that evening as to how you may claim a prize. Bowling begins at 3:15 with warm-ups at 3:00. Please let a teammate know if you are unable to attend. See you on the 14th!

"OFF" CLUB: The Board hopes that everyone had a great holiday season. We are looking forward to seeing all of you ...especially after such a cold start in 2026. **Please Note:** Because Ash Wednesday is on the 3rd Wednesday this month, we'll meet the following Wednesday, Feb. 25. After lunch we will be playing a game so bring in a couple of dollars in dimes.



Reflecting on Adult Education

February and Lent both offer the opportunity to draw near to the warmth of God's people and God's Word. Attend one of Good Shepherd's many studies or small groups this month.



Just a Quick Word, Mondays ~ we'll be looking at Lent history and practices.

"Body & Soul," Monday at 8 pm in the Life Center ~

By playing basketball and getting a work-out together, this group of guys have a lot of fun and grow to know and support one another. Anyone is welcome.



Faith, Prayer and Joy Small Group, Tuesdays at 9:30 am ~ we'll be exploring the "Untangle Your Emotions" Bible Study.



Bible Study, Tuesdays at 10:30 am

~ Join now as we go through the sensational book of Revelation, asking what it means for us today.

Discovering the Bible, Tuesdays at 6:30 pm ~

The Holy Spirit doesn't only show up in the Book of Acts but in our Tuesday evening group as we journey through this fun piece of scripture.

Spiritual Fitness, 3rd Monday (Feb. 16) at 1:00 pm ~

Heather M. Dixon's video series continues with the study of Naomi in the book of Ruth. Leaders for this month are: Angela Bell -Lesson; Deanna Wachholz - Inspirational Reading; Joan Meyers, Contact/Hostess. Come join us for coffee, friendship, and a cozy winter afternoon.



Reflecting on our Youth



The next Mission Trip group will be meeting Sunday, February 15 after the late

service. We will review the dessert auction, discuss group shirts for the trip and go over details for our work site. We ask not only participants but one parent to also attend the meeting. Lunch will be provided. More details to come via text.

The GS High School Basketball League

will have games each Sunday in February except for the 8th due to the Superbowl. This is a fun, active league open to all youth regardless of skill or gender, so don't be afraid to give it a shot! Games are at 6 pm and 7 pm. See Pastor Bell for details.



The Sunday school Kids are on a Mission!! They need YOUR help to collect donations for the Birthday Box Mission Project. These will be given to the Palos Food Pantry to pass out to their clients to help celebrate a birthday. Our goal is to assemble 25 Boxes.

You can help...by purchasing any of the items listed below. Donations can be brought to church on or before February 15.

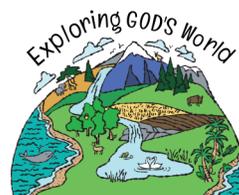
Items needed are:

Boxes of cake mix &/or cans of frosting (any flavor)
Single pkgs. of birthday candles
Ziploc Bags-2 Gallon Size
Foil Pans 9x13 size (no lids)

The following can be in solid colors or birthday design: pkgs of plastic table covers, single pkgs of small size (dessert) cake plates &/or napkins.

Early Learning Program for 1-5 year olds and their favorite grown-up!!

Join Mrs. B and Mrs. Lori on Sat., February 7 from 10:30 am-11:45 am to explore the theme "Exploring God's Wonderful World". Please sign-up on the bulletin board by the church nursery or email Mrs. Lori by Feb. 1. Fee is \$10 per child for supplies, payable that day.



VBS 2026 theme has been chosen!! A PLANNING committee is forming! Interested in being a part of VBS this summer? We'd love to have

YOU join us on February 24 at 7 pm. Dates for VBS this summer are July 6-10. Come and hear about "Rainforest Falls" and all the fun that awaits us!

VBS is a fun and meaningful event in the life of Good Shepherd **AND IT NEEDS YOU**. We are looking for Crew Leaders and Crew Assistants to lead a small group of kids, Site Leaders and Site Assistants to run one of the sites the children rotate through each day. Let Mrs. Lori know if you are interested!!

Planning for the Easter Eggstravaganza has begun!!

Donations of the following would be helpful and greatly appreciated; individually wrapped candy (please no peanuts) and small toys/stickers that will fit in a plastic egg. These items can be brought to Mrs. Lori's office on or before March 8. We will begin stuffing eggs soon thereafter.



5th-8th Grade Lock-In! We are so excited for our Jr High Lock-In this February!!! Come have a fun night, and for our 5th graders, get to know your future confirmation colleagues. Plan to arrive at 7:30 pm

on February 20 and be picked up the next morning promptly at 8:30 am. Pick up and drop off will be at the back brown metal doors off the FLC. Please bring a snack to share. Any parents who are willing to help should see Pastor Bell or Mrs. Lori. **Permission forms must be returned by February 15.** Don't miss the fun and memorable event! See Pr. Bell for more info.

8th Grade Confirmation — This month is important for working on and, for some, sharing your *Witness to the Faith*. We'll meet each Sunday except February 15 this month. Let's finish strong.

Reflecting on our Children / Families



Every Sunday is a fun day in Sunday School...AND we want to share that with others! **With our theme of Share God's Love**

with Others...this month will have us enjoy a Puppet Show, Crafts, and assembling Birthday Boxes for the local Food Pantry. All our Sunday school Kids are welcome to **INVITE a friend** to join us each Sunday to share God's love with others!!!

Feed My Starving Children needs our help!! Mark your calendars and please sign-up to pack food on March 7 at the Aurora facility from 2-3:45 pm. Minimum age requirement is 5. Everyone should plan on arriving at the facility by 1:45 pm via their own transportation.

feed the children