



### 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



## Easter Thanks

**Easter Thank You:** A big thank you to all who helped make Lent, Holy Week, Easter Sunday and the Easter Season meaningful at Good Shepherd. Space does not allow us to list everyone who contributed to these efforts but please know they are greatly appreciated.

**Confirmation and First Communion:** This year will see 9 young people affirm their faith in Christ during our Confirmation Service on Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 pm. They will then celebrate their First Communion during the 11 am service on Sunday, May 10. This year's Confirmation Class includes: *Noah Bergmann, Lukas Bort, Vivienne Pegorin, Garrett Pempek, Emma Sage, Tate Spencer, Eloise Wagner, Jack Wiltgen and Grace Wolcott.*



**The Garage Sale is here!!!**  
**Friday, May 1: 8 AM - 3 PM**  
**Saturday, May 2: 8 AM - Noon**  
See page 2 for more information



RACE DAY

**Jr. Choir Musical:** Our Junior Choir is excited to present their musical during the services on May 10. Come and hear the gospel message as our young

people present, "Race Day." "Coach K" kicks off a very special Saturday morning for members of his church youth group where instead of physically running a race, the day is about an even bigger race. . . *the race of life!* And the Bible says training to live a life determined to follow Jesus is like running a race where the prize is eternal and heavenly! So come on, join us! Lace up those running shoes, do some stretches, and get ready to run the race of a lifetime with **RACE DAY!**



**Music Appreciation:** Good Shepherd is blessed with individuals musically gifted who volunteer their time to glorify God with those gifts. Come to services on Sunday, May 17 and enjoy their music before they break for the summer months.

**Memorial Day Weekend worship times change:** Sunday, May 24 will see us switch to summer worship times. The early service will begin at 8:30 am and the late service will start at 10:00 am.



**Join in celebrating Immanuel's meaningful ministry with us.** Immanuel's last day with Good Shepherd is Sunday, May 31. On that day, following the 10 am service, we will have a lunch in the Life Center to express our appreciation for how he has helped us know God during his nine months of faithful service alongside us. Feel free to bring a card or gift if you desire to show your appreciation in that manner. Please RSVP with the church office to help us get a general head count. Be on the lookout for more details in the near future.

**Deacons Picnics Save the Date:** This year's Deacons' Picnics will be held on the evenings of June 9 and 10. Save the dates to be part of this great event.



# People of Good Shepherd – April 2026

## Baptisms

Shane Gerald DeWolf — April 19, 2026



## New Parents

Ed Bush and Elizabeth Floran-Bush, a daughter, Vanessa Bush



## Known to have been ill or hospitalized

Lynn Evers, Judy Siwak, Liam Garr, Myrna Bronson, Bob Ekhart, Marilyn Garr, Tom Kozlowski, Gerhard Haigis, Jim Srbeny, Larri Lyn Rauch, Gail Kendall, Jerry Kendall, Bill Innocenti, Nicole Baldwin, Sandra Leach, Carole Peterson, Carol Miller, Judy Oster and Joanne Borner



## Known to have Experienced Bereavement

Jill Price upon the passing of her friend, Chris Rusin

The Herrndobler and Tinberg families upon the passing of Marilyn Herrndobler

Deanna Wachholz upon the passing of her sister-in-law, Frances Beaty

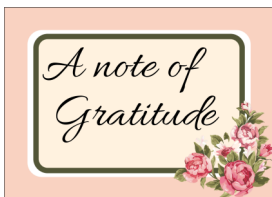
Kurt and Liz Spooner upon the passing of their brother-in-law, Glenn Spachman



## Funerals

† Mary K. Emeritz — April 17, 2026 — At 105, Mary was the oldest member of Good Shepherd but always held the joy and wit of someone better described as 105 years young. We recall her glorious smile and the way she embraced each day. Our loves goes out to her daughter, Judy Siwak.

† Elaine Louise Elliott — April 18, 2026



*The family of Lucette Held wants to extend a sincere appreciation to you for your kind words, visits, calls, thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. It is so heart warming to be part of the Good Shepherd family that cares so much.*  
*Robert Held and family*



## **Garage Sale Information and reminders:**

**It's that time! Our Garage Sale is the first weekend in May.**

Come find yourself some new treasures to take home with you on Friday and Saturday morning.

**We need lots of help** Monday through Thursday with large item pickup, sorting, pricing and organizing. Then we need help the actual days of the sale and with teardown on Saturday after the sale is done. See the Youth Bulletin Board or Pastor Bell for details.

**For those interested in donating, 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!*



**PHOTO DIRECTORIES are In:** The new photo directories are here and we have one for each family. You can get yours by coming by the church office. Also, **we are updating the ANNUAL directory.** Please notify the church office of any change in your contact information including removal of a landline. Let us know of any changes by June 30.



# WE NEED YOUR HELP!



**May Chancel Guild Meeting:** The Chancel Guild will be meeting on Wednesday, May 6 at 7 pm to go over the schedule for the next several months. This is a very meaningful ministry at Good Shepherd that anyone is welcome to be part of. ***In fact, we need some more people*** willing to help set up and clean up from our weekly Communion. If you're curious or would like to talk about taking part, come to the meeting or contact Pastor Chris.

## Flower Planting Time in our Church Garden!

Please join us on Wed., May 13, at **5:00 pm** or Sat., May 16, at **9:00 am** to plant the colorful, annual flowers around the church. (Note: Rain dates are May 21 and 23). 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!



## Are You Able?

***Our gardens will need continued love*** throughout the growing season. June through October group gardening dates will be scheduled to keep our gardens beautiful. The garden also needs our green thumbs between the group gardening dates. **Please reach out to the church office to find out more on how you can help with the garden.** Also, check the Sunday bulletins and the newsletters for the upcoming group garden dates throughout the growing season (May – October).

## PENTECOST SUNDAY, May 24:

We are adding **RED GERANIUMS** to the chancel this day to add to the beauty of our sanctuary. The cost of a red 6" pot is \$15. All orders must be placed by May 17. Please complete the form on the last page of the newsletter if you would like to purchase any geraniums or sign up in the narthex on Sundays.



**2026 High School or College Graduation? PLEASE** notify the church office if you have a daughter or son graduating from **high school or college** this year. **For a college grad**, we need the

**degree and field** in which he/she majored. Please either complete the form on the last page of the newsletter and drop it off in the office or email [donna@good-shepherd-church.com](mailto:donna@good-shepherd-church.com) with the information. Please respond by Friday, May 22 for publication in the June/July newsletter. Thank you!

**High School Graduation Sunday is June 7.** We invite our 2026 H. S. graduates to attend either service and come forward to share your name and plans. We'll offer you a small gift and bless you for this new season of life. Whatever your plans are from college, trade school, military service, to the workforce, we want to take a moment to celebrate you and pray for you. Please contact the church office and let us know if you can attend either service (8:30 or 10:00) so we can plan accordingly with our gifts. God Bless our students as they finish high school, and may God guide them in their next chapter of life!



## SPRING into MISSIONS

**Palos Food Pantry and their clients thank YOU for the 128 Easter blessing bags donated.**

The Mission Committee will be accepting capital improvement grant applications thru June 1. Please reach out to charity organizations that you know make a difference in our communities. Applications can be found on our website.



**"Cooking with Care"** continues to support Morning Star Mission in Joliet! This month we are cooking on Tuesday, May 12 at 9:30 am. Come and join us!

We **continue to take food** to the Palos Food Pantry. **May requests** include: skillet dinners, Jell-O, pudding, baked beans, canned tuna and condiments (ketchup, mustard, pickles, etc.). Thank you!



**As we celebrate Memorial Day this month, let's remember our veterans.** They're in need of regular/diabetic socks for men AND women. *They can also use the following:* cans of pop, gallon size Hawaiian Punch (regular flavor); individual snack bags (chips, Cheetos, etc.), bite-size candy, and individual bags of cookies. Please place your items in the two BLUE bins in the narthex. **The vets say, "Thank you!"**

# SPRING into ADULT EDUCATION



The program year is coming to a close. Enjoy these last offerings before we take a break for the summer.

**Just a Quick Word** will explore the intersections of life and faith.

**Body & Soul on Monday at 8 pm in the Life Center** keeps up the tradition of getting in a good work out and sharing some memories on the basketball court. Please note that we will **not be playing** on Monday, April 27 due to the garage sale or on Monday, May 25 due to Memorial Day.



**Faith, Prayer and Joy Small Group on Tuesday at 9:30 am** will wrap up "Bible Stories for Adults" this month and then choose a new series.

**Bible Study on Tuesday at 10:30 am** continues the book of Revelation which ends with a vision of hope. Join in this conclusion and the inspiring message it brings.

**Discovering the Bible on Tuesday at 6:30 pm** will continue the book of acts where God works in powerful ways. Come and explore what the Holy Spirit means for you and the church today.

**Spiritual Fitness Women's Bible Study** meets in Bethany Hall at 1:00 pm on Monday, May 18. Our bible study continues in the chapter of Ruth with "*Finding the Courage to Face the Unknown*" Leaders for the month are: Pam Stewart - Hostess, Ruth Schlange - Inspirational Reading, Carol Miller - Bible Study Lesson. Come join us for a joyful afternoon. All are welcome.



## SPRING into ACTIVITIES



**Gamers Anonymous**—This month's game day is Wed., May 6. Playing begins at 1:00 pm till about 3:00 pm. Anyone who likes fun, fast and easy card and dice games are always welcome. If you are planning on attending this month,

please bring three one dollar bills to be used during the game. Come and join the fun! We would love to see you!

**Hello Bowlers!** The year flew by! Our last bowling session for the 2025-26 season is May 9. It's "position night" so you'll be bowling the team right above or below you in the standings. No money is due this session, unless you were absent in April or if you owe fees from earlier sessions. **Please pay any amount due on the 9th!** Donna and Judy will continue to run the league next year, so bowl your best!



**Interested in joining this league?** It's a once-a-month league - that's only 9 times for the season! It's a great way to make some friends and enjoy an afternoon out. We bowl at 3 pm at *Arena Lanes* in Oak Lawn. So, think about it and let Donna know by July 31 if you would like to join. We can always use subs too.

**The Spring Blood Drive** will take place on Sunday, May 17 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Life Center. It's open to anyone in the community and it's easy to sign up for an appointment.



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

**The Church and Community Committee** will 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.

**"OFF" CLUB** meets on Wednesday, May 20. The meeting starts at 11:00 followed by lunch which is \$8.00. Everyone over the age of 55 is welcome. After enjoying lunch, a member of the *Palos Police Department* will be filling us in on some of the current scams that are taking place. We look forward to seeing you.







**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**

**Vacation Bible School Registration is May 3 through June 21!**

*Pre-Registration is required.* VBS registration fee is \$15 per student and payable via cash or check made out to Good Shepherd. Children age 3 (by July 5) and completely toilet trained through completed 5<sup>th</sup> Grade can register. You may register on Sunday mornings between the services or during the week Mon-Thurs from 9 am - 5 pm (exception of lunch hour 12 Noon - 1 pm) and on Fri from 9 am - 12 Noon.



**MANY VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED** to run a successful week of Vacation Bible School.

The following areas still need to be filled... 2 more Crew Leaders (Preschool and Lower Elementary), **MANY** Crew Assistants (completed 6<sup>th</sup> graders and up), and 1 -Rec assistant (must be High School age or up). Please contact Lori Puttkammer with any questions or to volunteer! Service hours can be earned!



**VBS 2026 Plans are underway!!** We have an updated list of some items that would be helpful with décor, crafting, snacks, and for general use during the week of VBS. *If you can donate any of the following items, it would be greatly appreciated:*

- \* Paper Towel Cardboard Tubes
- \*pkg. of baby wipes
- \* paper towels
- \* parchment baking paper
- \*napkins
- \* rolls of clear packaging tape
- \* zipper close baggies (snack and sandwich sizes)
- \* paper drink cups (8 or 9 oz. size),
- \* empty gallon WATER jugs with caps
- \* paper cupcake liners

**Please bring your donations to Mrs. Lori's office.**



**VBS decorating Crew needs help** tracing and cutting out palm leaves for our scenery around the church. We also are looking for someone to cut sections of a paper roll with a miter saw. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mrs. Lori.



✂ **PLEASE complete the form below for your 2026 high school or college graduate. Please provide this information to us by May 20.**

Name of HS or College Graduate: \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ College Degree \_\_\_\_\_

College Major \_\_\_\_\_

**For HS Graduates.** College attending or other plans in the fall, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

✂ **PENTECOST SUNDAY IS MAY 24. RED GERANIUMS—\$15**

All orders must be placed by May 17.

Please complete this form below or sign up in the narthex on Sundays.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_