



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7800 W. McCarthy Rd., Palos Heights, IL 60463
www.good-shepherd-church.com

November 2025

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



THANKSGIVING

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart – Psalm 9:1

On this month where our attention turns to giving thanks, the beginning of Psalm 9 reminds us that giving thanks is not a half-hearted activity. To truly be thankful, we engage our whole self. As we pause to give thanks, God invites you to bring the whole of who you are. Bring all your successes, joys and triumphs along with all your shortcomings, pain and torment. God wants it all because God wants all of you. For that radical love of God, let us give thanks.

Join in special services around the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanksgiving Eve Service:

Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 7:30 pm

Thanksgiving Day Service:

Thursday, Nov. 27 at 10:00 am



As part of these special services, **we invite you to bring non-perishable food** as part of your offering. All that's collected will be given to the **Palos Food Pantry** to provide for their local clients.

Special Sundays in November



All Saints' Day

All Saints Sunday—November 2. The faithful who have come before us model how we can authentically live our faith. During both worship services, we will recall the members of Good Shepherd who have passed away in the last year. **Also that day, don't forget to set your clocks back and get an extra hour of sleep.**



Christ the King Sunday—November 23. All are part of God's kingdom through Christ. As God's people, we gather together to worship our one true king.

Gingerbread House Decorating is around the corner!

It's on a Sunday this year, December 7 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 Dec. 3. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board or email Mrs. Lori.



The People of Good Shepherd – October, 2025

Marriages

Brian Huttner and Kendra Martino — October 11, 2025

Julie Johnson and Matthew Schwartz—October 18, 2025



New Parents/Grandparents

Joseph and Allison Sausville, a son, Dean Walker, grandson of Sheila and Barry Garr, great grandson of Marilyn and Barry Garr; Lauren and Sean Flanagan, a daughter, Gilmore Rose, granddaughter of Shirley and Brian Bennett



New Members

Julie Elsner and Jerry and Gail Kendall



Known to have been Ill or Hospitalized

John Carlson, Gail Kendall, Jerry Kendall, Joe Schmitt, Ray Borner, June Johnsen, Lucette Held, David Podewell, Mary Emeritz, Jürgen Daartz, Joy Ausec, Gerhard Haigis, Jim Sheehan, Marilyn Garr, Warren Meneou, Bill Innocenti, Tom Kozlowski, Bill Johnsen, Nicole Baldwin, Betty Paska, Robin Manning, Larri Lyn Rauch and Marilyn Aspan

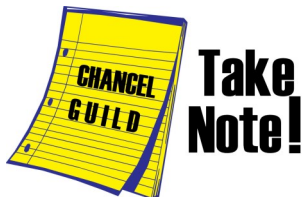


Known to have Experienced Bereavement

Pastor Chris and family upon the passing of his grandmother, Bernadine Buresh
Larry and Larri Lyn Rauch upon the passing of their friend, Kimberly Murphy
Cynthia Feil upon the passing of her brother, Greg
Debbie Zimba upon the passing of her friend, Daniel Medina



Be on the look out for your 3rd quarter statements with the Thanksgiving Letter. Later this month, Good Shepherd will be sending out a mailing with the Thanksgiving Letter. In that envelope will also be your giving statement listing your contributions to Good Shepherd thru September of 2025. Thank you for your ongoing generosity towards God's work through Good Shepherd.



Chancel Guild Meeting on November 5. This group is such a blessing to Good Shepherd. They help prepare the sanctuary and elements for worship. They are IN NEED of a few more volunteers. Come to the meeting or talk to Pastor Chris to find out how you can meet some great people, do some very meaningful work and practice your faith in a deeply appreciated manner.

Good Shepherd's newsletter needs a name! That's where you come in. We're reaching out to you, our church community, to help us find a name that truly represents us. This newsletter is not just a communication tool; it's a reflection of the life, work, and spirit of our church family. We believe naming it should be a shared effort, because this is a work of all of us. Whether your idea is fun, meaningful, spiritual, simple, or creative, we'd love to hear it. **So, please drop a note on Donna's desk or email her at donna@good-shepherd-church.com with the following information: your name and phone number and your suggested newsletter name.** We will select up to 5 of the suggested newsletter names and have our church family vote on the final name selected. Thank you for participating!





GIVING THANKS

God graciously provides and for those provisions, it is right to give our thanks. God's provisions come to Good Shepherd through the faithfulness of people dedicated to ensuring that the good news is proclaimed in a multitude of ways. For all of those acts of generosity, we want to pause to say THANK YOU. This list is just a sampling of the many who contribute to God's work.

- ♥ The landscaping crew who reflect God's beauty through maintaining our grounds.
- ♥ Jill Price for her countless hours of volunteering and organizing our church facility.
- ♥ All who provide for altar flowers, poinsettias and geraniums and those who help deliver them to uplift members going through difficult times.
- ♥ Melinda Moore, Renee Wright and everyone who has participated in our blood drives this year.
- ♥ For Immanuel, the Internship Committee and all who have been involved in helping Good Shepherd participate in crafting leaders for the church.
- ♥ Bill & Linda Hubbard for their help with the water pump in the courtyard.
- ♥ The volunteers who assemble our monthly newsletter.
- ♥ Everyone who has donated shoes to support Share Your Soles.
- ♥ Kathy Kupka, Debbie Provencher and Sherry Tellefsen for their work with the funeral and baptismal banners.
- ♥ The chancel guild for preparing for and cleaning up from worship.
- ♥ Shawn and Matt Erickson along with Erickson Plumbing for their generous expertise in helping with our plumbing needs in the facility and detention pond.
- ♥ Lauren Kirkner and everyone at Burns Photography for helping us with our photo directory.
- ♥ The stewards for their work counting and recording our weekly giving.
- ♥ Matt Behrman, Frank Yelland, Tim Hoffman, Jack Cody, Keith Gansel and especially Jan Nelson for their care for our facility.
- ♥ Those who serve in worship as acolytes, lectors and ushers to help service move smoothly.
- ♥ April Strand, Gail Lobsinger, Edith Schmitt, Marie Perry, Rita Petritsch, Debi Pope and Bev Pauly and others who have volunteered their time to help out in the church office this year.
- ♥ The Personnel Committee for all their hard work this year caring for the staff.
- ♥ Those who do help and have helped us learn and share music including our volunteer musicians as well as our leaders: Aaron Basch, Michelle Podewell, Joy Ausec, Angie Pope, Beth Ridderhoff and Donna Choquette.
- ♥ The volunteers who make VBS, Trunk or Treat, the Extravaganza and our other family ministry events a blast.
- ♥ The Missions Committee for their faithful stewardship and hard work helping us all participate in God's good work.
- ♥ Cheryl Davidovitch, Jimmy Kinstedt and everyone who supports the Manteno Veteran home.
- ♥ The Rally Day volunteers who made that occasion a joy for all.
- ♥ Everyone who supports the staff with food, cards and gifts of appreciation.
- ♥ The staff, Church Council and the Deacons for their faithful leadership.
- ♥ **EVERYONE** for generously supporting God's work through Good Shepherd with their time, talents and giving.



HAVE A *Happy* **THANKSGIVING**
THANKFUL - GRATEFUL - BLESSED

Giving Thanks for Mission Opportunities



"Cooking with Care" is reaching out to those less fortunate! The next date for cooking to support the Morning Star Mission is Tuesday, November 11 at 9:30 am. We would love for you to come join us in the kitchen!

Palos Food Pantry's specific needs for November 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.



Tuesday, Nov. 11 is **Veterans Day**. What a great time to remember our vets at the Manteno Veterans

Home! They could use new greeting cards, postage stamps, 2026 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 truly appreciate all our donations!**



There will be a **Missions Committee meeting** on Thursday, November 20 at 4:30 pm.



Giving Thanks for Adult Education

Give thanks to God by continuing to grow near to God and God's people. One way to do that is to participate in one of our weekly groups.



Just a Quick Word – Pastor Bell will reflect how liturgy and worship connect with real life.

Body & Soul on Monday at 8 pm in the Life Center: The life center has been packed lately with a great group of guys from church and the community. But there is always room for one more. Come on out, get some exercise while playing basketball, meet some people and have some fun



Faith, Prayer and Joy Small Group on Tuesday at 9:30 am: We will be selecting a new topic to discuss in November.

BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study on Tuesday at 10:30 am:

Revelation is very much a book of hope. The journey to that

message goes through some crazy imagery. Join in as we explore how God's message of hope comes to us through this fun book.

Discovering the Bible on Tuesday at 6:30 pm: Looking at the major themes of the Bible has been a lot of fun. Come and join as we continue in this adventure. All are welcome.



Be Renewed

Spiritual Fitness . . . continues monthly on the 3rd Monday at 1:00 pm. The fall season video-study series begins with author Heather M. Dixon's "Renewed."

Light refreshments are served. For attending details, please contact Joan Meyers or Deanna Wachholz. Thank you.

Giving Thanks for Service Opportunities & Events



GAMERS ANONYMOUS...Our next **game day** will be on Wednesday, November 5. We start at 1:00 pm 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. We love to see new faces. Come and join the fun...the more the merrier.

The Church and Community Committee thanks everyone who donated blood during our drive Oct. 19 and those who spread the word about it. We were able to collect 25 units of blood thanks to your efforts! Each unit can help up to three people. We'll have another blood drive in the spring.



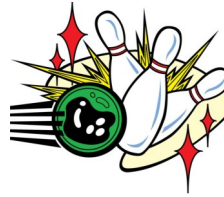
thank you for donating

Blood



Help spread the word about Good Shepherd during the holiday parade Dec. 6 in Palos Heights.

Entries line up about 10 a.m. and the parade starts at 10:45 and heads down Harlem Avenue. It takes about an hour. A few people can ride in a truck decorated with our church banners, throwing candy that's provided. Others will walk behind it and pass out flyers with the holiday services. Festive attire is encouraged. We have Santa hats. Sign up by calling the church office at (708) 448-4170.



Hello Bowlers! We bowl next on Nov. 8. This is our **"Turkey Shoot"** night. The person on each team with the most pins over average after the 3 games wins a small prize. Hope you will all be there! Remember our start time is 3:15 with practice beginning at 3:00. If money is owed from previous sessions, please try to be current with your funds. **Thank you and see you on the 8th!**



We Gather Together

"OFF" Club...Our monthly meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 19. The meeting starts at 11:00 and lunch is \$8.00 monthly.

We will be enjoying our traditional Thanksgiving dinner for lunch. This meeting is for **paid members only**. **Because this is a busy time of year for our caterers, you absolutely must call Bonnie Sweeney by Wednesday, November 12 to RSVP. Failing to do so could mean there won't be a lunch for you.** Everyone attending needs to bring in a wrapped, \$10.00 Christmas gift. These will be used for prizes in a game. After the game we will be singing Christmas carols with piano being played by our very own church member, Grace Mueller.

YOUTH YOUTH YOUTH

Giving Thanks for Our Youth



8th Grade Confirmation We will meet every Sunday in November except Nov. 30. We look forward to continuing our journey together and having a lot of fun.

6th and 7th Grade Confirmation DO NOT have class this month on Monday, November 10 and November 24.

Second Sundays: SPORTS!! Calling all youth, join us **November 9 at 6:30 pm** for a night of sports, faith and ice cream!! Come play an awesome variety of games, some you know and some that are surprises! Bring your friends, bring your extended family, bring anyone 6th-12th grade. And then back by popular demand, we will get ice cream on the church! We do need anyone who is coming to RSVP though, so we have enough drivers to get you from the church to the ice cream place. See Pastor Bell for more details or to sign up.



Lots of Fun at Puttshack! Oakbrook Center Mall . . . We want to invite you to a fun-filled afternoon at the Puttshack on **Sunday, Nov. 16, starting at 1:00 pm**. Think of the coolest game of mini golf you can, add food, and you'll get what we're up to. We had a blast last year and we hope you'll join us again in November. This is open to High School & Jr. High Youth, family and their friends. We are asking each person to pay \$25 to help defray the cost, but please don't let money keep you from coming. So, if this sounds awesome and you want to go, contact Pastor Bell for more details and to sign up.

Gift Cards are back...



'Tis the season for the gift card sale!! Not only do gift cards make great gifts for family members, friends, teachers and others, but they can help fund Good Shepherd's Youth Mission Trip to Appalachia! You pay the normal value for the gift card and the High School students will receive a percentage of the that 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 in the office and can be found on the youth bulletin board.** Please turn in orders by Sunday, November 30. 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 7.



Giving Thanks for Childrens' and Family Ministry



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 2.

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

Attention Parents of Infants through Kindergarteners... Miss Angie's Music event will take place on November 8 from 10:30 am – 11:30 pm. 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.



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 16 and November 23 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 16 to pick up a child's name. Gifts will need to be brought to church on or before December 7.

Attention ALL Sunday school families! Save these December Dates!

We have begun planning for our **Children's Christmas Service** to be held on December 14 at 4 pm.

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 on Dec. 6 and Dec. 13 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.

Confirmation friends, we need your help with the Children's Christmas Service!



Something new is coming for our families with 1-5 year olds... Mrs. B and Mrs. Lori are making plans for our 1-5 year old friends to bring their Mom or favorite grownup for a morning of activities to explore together and grow closer to God. **Interested? Keep watch for more info and when dates planned for in January and February get released!**

