

## Bible Study – Introduction to Luke

Pastor Vern invites you to a five-week introduction to the Gospel of Luke. This study will occur in the parlor on Tuesdays at 9:30am, from January 21 to February 18.



### Important January Dates

- Jan 17- NOON-Annual Report Available**
- Jan 19- Informational meeting after worship**
- Jan 26- Annual Congregational meeting after worship**



Memorials have been given in memory of Bev Bartz, Pam Melby's mother, to the Choir Fund and Wednesday Night Suppers. Thank you!

### A Baptismal Banner has been gifted to all who are Baptized at Good Shepherd for the last 25 years.

Shirley Lesto was asked by Lorraine Hansen to fill her position which includes cutting the banner fronts and back and sewing to finish them. Ruth Heggen was drawing the Dove and printing the lettering and Albert Quade Sr. was cutting and painting the dowel rods. Marion Lutteke was embroidering the banner. When Ruth retired, Linda Possin was welcomed into her position and that has been for the last 15-18 year and she has resigned. Bill Harnack took over for Albert when he resigned. Tracy Warmka filled in when her Grandmother Marion became ill. Tracy has volunteered to take over Linda's position and to continue to serve as the embroiderer. Our thanks to this crew of volunteers who have served Good Shepherd for 25 years.



## Good Shepherd LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

291 1st St SW  
Wells, Minnesota 56097  
507.553.3513  
shepherd@bevcomm.net

### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
Wednesday Worship 6:15 pm  
Holy Communion 1st and 3rd weeks  
Pastor Vern Christopherson -  
pastorgslc@bevcomm.net  
Administrative Secretary: Amy Schroeder, shepherd@bevcomm.net  
Treasurer: Jackie Huper  
Data & Social Media: Pat Ojanen, goodshepherd@bevcomm.net  
Church Office: M-F 8:30-3:00, Fridays by appointment only  
Church Phone: (507) 553-3513  
Broadcast Bevcomm Cable TV Channel 990: Tues. -11 am & Wed. - 7:30 pm & Sat. -11:00am  
Web Site: <http://www.goodshepherdwells.org>  
Live Stream: <https://goodshepherdwells.online.church/>



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January 2025

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**Your 2024 Church Council Members** shepherd@bevcomm.net

507-383-1083 - President Brian Ehlert (IT) 2026

507-676 1418 - Vice President Nancy Bruckhoff (Y&E) 2025

507-553-3855 - Secretary -Sue Vee (OF) 2024

507-525-1379- Lindsey Schultz (YE) 2024

507-339-4999- Gary Hagen (TTT) 2024

218-310-1220 - Pat Ojanen (PM) 2026

507-456-5462 - Sara Lutteke (Y&E) 2025

507-327-0918 - William Groskreutz Jr. (PM) 2026

**Comments?**

**Questions?**

**Concerns?**

**All are**

**Welcome!**

### **Can We Talk** conversations in January

#### **Pastor Vern**

Good Shepherd is having a **special meeting on January 5 at 10:30am to elect a Call Committee**. The Council has nominated these candidates: Sandi Hartman (chair), Nancy Kruger, Nancy Bruckhoff, Brian Schultze, Brett Niebuhr, Emily Rajtar, Jim Stern, and Jaelyn Stangler.

Soon after January 5, the Call Committee will meet with Pastor Barb Streed of the SEMN Synod to begin the process of putting together interview questions, talking through our Ministry Site Profile (MSP), and beginning to consider candidates who might be available for an interview.

**To guide the Call Committee in this process, we have scheduled two Can We Talk conversations here at Good Shepherd. One session is Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00pm and the second is Sunday, January 12 at 10:45am.**

These conversations will be led by Pastor Vern. There will be a series of questions that we ask the participants, questions ranging from: a) How do you feel about the worship styles we are using, to b) How do we plan on getting our next settled pastor off to a good start?

Good Shepherd Church Family

~ THANK YOU ~

Thank you for your generous donations for my Thrivent Action Team project. Your generosity made a difference for the Kells Area Food Shelf.

Marlene Kauffmann

### **Narrative Lectionary in January**

We continue reading from the Gospel of Luke in January.

Here are the texts we'll be covering in worship:

January 5 & 8      Luke 2:41-52 - "Boy in the Temple"

January 12 & 15      Luke 3:1-22 - "Jesus' Baptism"

January 19 & 22      Luke 4:14-30 - "Sermon at Nazareth"

January 26 & 29      Luke 5:1-11 -- "Fishing for People"

## The Call Process for Congregations

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Steps of the Call Process for Congregations:

Phase One: Congregational Council Overview and The Transition

Phase Two: The Self-Study Process

Phase Three: The Interview Process for Call Committees

Phase Three: Calling a Special Congregational Vote Meeting, for Councils

Phase Four: Welcoming Your New Pastor

### Ministry Site Profile

An early step in calling a rostered leader is completing a Ministry Site Profile, a document that describes your congregation's history, ministry, membership, community, and leadership needs.

### Rostered Minister Profile

Rostered ministers in the ELCA complete a Rostered Minister Profile to enter the call process. These forms tell synod staff and possible ministry sites (congregations or other ministries) more about the leader.

**Moving Forward:** Periodic Review and Evaluation It is important for rostered ministers, as well as lay staff members, in a congregation to engage in periodic review and evaluation of the mission and ministry of the whole congregation. This can be a life-giving conversation and a way of setting goals for the future. Information on periodic reviews can be found on the Southeastern Minnesota Synod's website: [www.semnsynod.org](http://www.semnsynod.org). Enter pastoral review in the search box and information on how to conduct such a review will be described.

Time will be limited, of course, so each of the five questions will be narrowed to a single statement. **Participants can then respond to these statements in a spectrum survey.** The responses will range from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

This process might sound a bit confusing, but I think it will make sense as we get going. Here are the five statements to which you will respond:

- 1) I feel fed and enriched by how we are doing worship.
- 2) Our pastor needs to be present at many ministry team meetings, but by keeping in touch with the ministry team leader, he or she can be absent when the workload gets overly busy.
- 3) Our pastor needs to take an active role in visitation, but he or she needs to rely on the efforts of the Caring Ministry Team.
- 4) There are many ways to do Bible study these days, and we expect our pastor to find creative ways to engage our congregation in the Bible.
- 5) We are committed to getting our new pastor off to a good start using a year-long *Healthy Start* program.

I hope you can join us. The Call Committee needs to hear from you.



### A Message from the Council President

The council has made good progress this year. A committee was formed and met to review the constitution, the procedure manual is in the process of review. The Transition Team is ready to be confirmed as the Call Committee at our first meeting in January. They will then be schooled in the process of a Pastoral Search by Rev. Barb Streed from the SE Minnesota Synod. We are looking at ways to tighten up the budget for 2025. These are just some of the highlights of a busy year. We thank Pastor Vern for working with us over the past year and in the continuing year to guide us in the Call Process. God Bless, Brian Ehlert.

**Good Shepherd Church council met Thursday, December 12, 2024.** President Brian called the meeting to order & Pastor Vern led the group in prayer. Those present were Brian Ehlert, Nancy Bruckhoff, Sue Vee, Sara Lutteke, Pat Ojanen, Bill Groskreutz & Pastor Vern. Jackie Huper was present for part of the meeting. Absent were Gary Hagen & Lindsey Schultz.

Motion made by Bill to accept the agenda as written with additions made. Second by Sara. Motion carried.

Motion made by Sue to approve the consent agenda (Secretary's Report, Financial Report, Pastor's Report, President's Report & Team Ministry Reports). Second by Nancy. Motion carried.

Strategic Work-What Are We Doing And Why?

\*Financial Report given by Jackie. The excess money from the Bell Tower Repair account will remain in a restricted account under the Building Maintenance & Repair Account. After discussion it was decided the A. Yanske CD will not be cashed in early. It was decided that no funds will be disbursed from the Global Missions/Missionary Account till a called pastor is in place and the Global Missions Team is reactivated.

\*Council Response to Ministry Site Profile. Ministry Site Profile is being updated. Under Goals wording will be changed to Formally begin a call process seeking to call a settled pastor & to have the Call Committee & the Council provide ongoing support & feedback once that new pastor begins. Under Leadership needs Senior Pastor will be eliminated & Solo Pastor or Pastor wording will be replaced. Under Compensation the monetary amount will be replaced with Synod Guidelines. Under Professional Expenses \$500 a yr will be added to 1<sup>st</sup> call Theological Education. Reference Recommendation will remain as Mark Schmitz.

**Old Business:**

1. Audit Committee. Still Looking for one candidate to fill the audit committee. Brian will be contacting congregational members.
2. Nominating committee. Update given by Sue. One member has been found. Still seeking two additional council members.
3. 2025 Budget Process. Executive committee will be meeting soon.
4. Update on Transition Team. Report given by Pastor Vern. Transition Team/ Call Committee chairperson is Sandi Hartman. The Transition Team will become the call committee. Next meeting will be held in January.

**2024 Good Shepherd Financials**

INCOME	VS.	EXPENSE
\$16,033	JAN	\$30,255
\$10,230	FEB	\$21,710
\$66,004	MAR	\$31,938
\$22,740	APR	\$25,816
\$17,547	MAY	\$22,731
\$25,487	JUN	\$20,272
\$22,096	JUL	\$28,196
\$21,386	AUG	\$19,962
\$20,368	SEP	\$29,501
\$ 9,852	OCT	\$47,926
\$15,557	NOV	\$22,472

**Financial Info as of October 31, 2024**

YTD Total Income	\$247,300
TYD Total Expense	\$300,749
Transferred to CD	\$50,000
Difference	\$-103,449
YTD Oper. Savings Used	\$80,000
YTD Oper. Savings Paid Back	\$0.00

**Looking for a special cause?**

You can make donations to special accounts such as Youth & Education, Streaming of Church Services, Wednesday Night Meals, Caring Ministry, Kitchen Fund, Adult Choir to name a few.

**Wednesday Night Menu 5:15—6:00pm**

January 8—Ham, cheesy hashed browns, Mac n' Cheese

January 15—Spaghetti, Corn Dogs

January 22—Chicken Alfredo, Pizza

January 29—Potato Bar, Nuggets, Mac n' Cheese



### Congregation Service Project

Wednesday, January 8th from 4:00-6:00pm USC School Commons

We'll be joining others, including the confirmation students, in packing meals for Jesus' Food. *Everyone is welcome to help: RSVP to [shepherd@bevcomm.net](mailto:shepherd@bevcomm.net) by Dec 31st!*

Join us for "Can We Talk" Conversations with Pastor Vern & the Transition Team in the Social Hall.

Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM & Sunday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:45AM

Help the future Call Committee prepare to interview pastoral candidates.

### Fellowship and Outreach Team

The outreach/fellowship team met on Wednesday, December 11 @ 4pm with the following members present: Carol Jacobson, Pam Melby, Jeannette Groskreutz, Marilyn Rauenhurst, Joanne Korman, Sue Vee, Linda Hagen and Pastor Vern.

We reviewed that Pastor Vern will be taking the confirmation students to participate in the Jesus Food activity on January 8 from 4:00-6:00. We welcome any adults who would also like to participate in this activity which includes packing dry food packages for starving children all around the world.

We reviewed that we plan to have another Senior Appreciation Day for those 80 years and older sometime next May. We discussed that there are so many people that help us with major projects at Good Shepherd.

We will be sending words of thanks to Tami Winstead for always willing to assist where there is a need, Sandy Hartman with all of her work providing music for church services and being on the transition team, Mike Schroeder for accompanying the choir in his busy schedule, Brian Ehlert for his leadership and offering to help in so many ways, Lauryne Stern and Amy Schroeder for their commitment to planning the children's Christmas program, Kent Stern for his commitment to his job as custodian, and Pastor Vern for EVERYTHING he does. We are so appreciative for all of the people who do their part to make Good Shepherd an inviting place of worship to learn about the love of their Savior.

5. Stewardship Letter in January. Stewardship letter will go out to the congregation in January.
6. Council decisions regarding same gender relationships in 2014. Council reviewed decision made in 2014 under interim Pastor Soli. After lengthy discussion no decision to change policy adoption was made.
7. IT update given by Pat. New modem was updated in the loft has been made, making the download much faster for streaming the service.
8. Special thanks was given to Craig Stalkamp for all his help.

### New Business:

1. Are we ready for a Call Committee? Brian made a motion to elect call committee members that have agreed to serve at a special congregational meeting set for January 5, 2025 after the service. Pat second the motion. Motion carried. Announcements of this meeting will be made at the Sunday & Wednesday services by Brian & will be posted in the bulletins.
2. Year end giving cut off is noon December 30, 2024 so that all deposits can be made on December 31, 2024 for this year.
3. Do we want to make a Global Mission Disbursement? This will be determined at a later date when a called pastor is in place.
4. Can We Talk Sessions with Pastor Vern. Dates have been set for January 8, 2025 at 7 PM and January 12, 2025 at 10:45.
5. Due to the increase in the property insurance cost Property & Management made the recommendation to switch insurance to American Church Group of MN for a savings of almost \$3,000. Due to insurance change the Sexual Acts Liability Coverage Questionnaire was answered by council & Pastor Vern. Pastor Vern will contact the insurance agent, Todd with update. Sexual Harassment & Abuse Policies of Good Shepherd will be updated.
6. Thank you from Kent Stern for the gift he received for his retirement was read.

Next meeting is set for January 9, 2025 at 5:30 PM. Devotions will be led by Brian. Congregational Informational meetings are scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> & January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, January 26, 2025. Motion made to adjourn by Bill. Sue second the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## Property and Management

December 3, 2024

Members present: Pat Ojanen, Bill Groskreutz Jr., Pastor Vern, John Vee, Neil Berg and Kent Stern.

We welcomed our new custodian Neil Berg to our group and wish him well.

We discussed our current insurance policy and how our premium has increased \$9,000.00 from last year. We have contacted a new company called American Church Group of Mn. and has given us a quote of almost \$3,000.00 less with the same coverage. Motion by Bill second by Pat to recommend to Council to switch to this company.

It was noticed that the streetlight on the west side of the Church is out, utilities checked it out they have a problem with underground wiring and need to put in a new pole and light which should be done by the Council meets.

Next meeting Jan. 7 at 5:00 pm

## Worship and Music Ministry Team Minutes

December 11, 2024

Present: Dynette, Andrea, Pastor Vern, Sandi, JoAnn, Jean and Lynne

-The Funeral Planning Guide is complete and has been shared with Sue Nasinec.

-Communion discussion for Christmas Eve service.

-Christmas Eve service details were firmed up.

-Visitor cards will be coming soon.

-Review of Thanksgiving Eve service.

Next meeting date: January 8 @ 9:30

**January 8th—7pm- Third Grade Bible Class in the Bell Tower**



## David & Goliath Word Search

M I E U H N D Y W X B H W E G I  
U M G C Z U E T E J D W F G H C  
X N Q C L X U O C B I E W F W D  
A V C S H E P H E R D Y F P M T  
R Q S I B A W V O O R I G I H P  
A L K H R W M M R O U Z K W E Y  
J S P A F C R P T K E J X C Q D  
E Y H O R A U C I G W D C O L P  
O A I B U M I M D O A R N E Z C  
W L L X A V I M C L N T I G V F  
Q V I I J A V E L I N H H Y N X  
S M S Y F P C Q S A S T O N E S  
L L T P I T G C T T Y E P T H V  
S C I H X Z C E Y H C J D G H G  
R B N N D O W X B K I Q H D D T  
K M E X G P W O M F K P O Y D L



Philistine  
Goliath  
Gath  
Armor  
Shield

Javelin  
Sling  
Stones  
Brook  
Shepherd

Lad  
Champion  
Defied  
Armies  
Uncircumcised  
Victory



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Gonzo Gonzalez Starla Schultze	<b>2</b> Marilyn Rauenhorst	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Dylan Bonsack
<b>5</b> Hayden Niebuhr Robert Buendorf	<b>6</b> Peyton Dylla Samantha Rollenhagen	<b>7</b> Pam Melby	<b>8</b> Amy Schroeder Marvel Huper Steve Schultz	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Jordan Niebuhr Walter Stenzel	<b>11</b> Danielle Johannsen Shelley Tibodeau
<b>12</b> David Jacobson Matt Theede	<b>13</b> Dennis Morgan Kynslee Alger	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Arlyss Schroeder Chase Roessler Landan Magnuson Zoey Dobbe	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Michael Rebelein
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Brock Franks Maren Buendorf	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Kathryn Weyhrauch Tim Stenzel	<b>23</b> Kathleen Ehlert	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Judy Harpestad	<b>28</b> Serenity Alger	<b>29</b> Derrick Carlson Harper Stern	<b>30</b> Dawn Lutteke Jane Ewert Matthew Hunnicut Michael Nicholson	<b>31</b> Arianne Schaper Caroline Cihlar Mary Linde	

## Youth and Education Minutes Nov. 25, 2024

Present: Pastor Vern, Lana, Nancy, Sara, Jill, Lauryne and Lindsay

### Old Business:

1. Nancy will order Christmas gifts for Sunday School students
2. Christmas program will be Dec. 11, with a meal before the program.
3. Pastor Vern will be opening the program as Joseph
4. Bible study continues with the Gather magazine lessons that are included in the magazine.

### New Business:

1. Reviewed the budget report by Nancy. Approved and will be submitted to the council. A request for an increase was not submitted.
2. A letter sent out by the confirmation students for a potential mentor. If they can not find one Y&E will be responsible for helping them find a mentor.
3. Pastor Vern reported on his confirmation class. It is a large group and it had to be moved into the kitchenette for more room. Students have been very active in assisting during worship and at the Weds. meals.
4. Bible presentation pending until January.
5. 5/6 will visit Shepherd's Inn during Weds. classroom time in Jan. or Feb.
6. Suggested by a committee member that we have a parent night to visit our classroom and view a lesson. No discussion or date set.

### Discussion on offering Communion earlier to our youth as follows:

1. Slowly introducing Early Communion and will be offered to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in 2025.
2. Education and training during Holy Week and First Communion on Maundy Thursday.
3. Next steps will be to offer Communion at lower ages. Note that this committee has young mothers who attend GS and their views are important about this decision. Pastor Vern will approach the Council and review Early Communion again. Motion by Nancy to have Early Communion on Maundy Thursday for 4/5 graders. Seconded by Jill. Approved.

Next meeting Jan. 7, 5:30

**Web Site (Live Stream): <http://www.goodshepherdwells.org>**



# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			No Service Office Closed	9:30am Builders of Bones!		
<p>5</p> <p>9:30am 9:30 Worship and Communion 9:45am Sunday School after Children's Sermon 10:30am Congregational Meeting Call Committee Approval</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9am Crafty Quilters 9:30am Builders of Bones!</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9am Women's Bible Study 5pm Property &amp; Management 5:30pm Youth &amp; Education</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30am Worship and Music Committee 4pm Caring Ministry 4pm Jesus Food Pack- Confirmation Service Project, 5:15pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:15pm Holy Communion 6:15pm Worship 7pm 3rd Grade Bible Class 7:00 pm, Can We Talk? 7pm Wednesday School &amp; Confirmation</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30am Builders of Bones! 5:30pm Church Council</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School after Children's Sermon <u>10:45am</u> Can We Talk?</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9am Crafty Quilters 9:30am Builders of Bones!</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:15pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:15pm Worship 7pm Wednesday School &amp; Confirmation</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30am Builders of Bones!</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12pm Annual Report Available</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:30am 9:30 Worship and Communion 10:30am Informational Meeting Pre-Annual Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am Crafty Quilters 9:30am Builders of Bones!</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am Luke Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:30am Shepherd's Inn Communion 5:15pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:15pm Holy Communion 6:15pm Worship 7pm Wednesday School &amp; Confirmation</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30am Builders of Bones!</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School after Children's Sermon 10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9am Crafty Quilters 9:30am Builders of Bones!</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am Luke Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:15pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:15pm Worship 7pm Wednesday School &amp; Confirmation</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30am Builders of Bones!</p>	<p>31</p>	