

Christmas Program Rehearsal

for PreK-6 at 7:00 pm Wednesdays

Dress Rehearsal December 4.

Christmas Program Performance

December 11, 2024 6:15 pm

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday December 24, 2024 at 5:00 pm



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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



Non-Profit Org.
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56097
Permit No. 7

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-Th 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](http://www.goodshepherdwells.org)
Live Stream: [https://
goodshepherdwells.online.church/](https://goodshepherdwells.online.church/)

Address Service Requested

FOR
Unto us a
Child
is born, Unto us a
Son is given
And the government shall be
upon His shoulder
And His name shall be called
WONDERFUL
Counsellor
The Mighty God
The Everlasting Father
THE PRINCE OF PEACE
ISAIAH
9:6

FOR UNTO YOU
IS BORN THIS DAY
IN THE CITY OF DAVID
A SAVIOR
WHICH IS
Christ the Lord.
LUKE 2:11
ScriptureAnd.blogspot.com

December 2024

Vol. 64 No. 12

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!

Advent Sermon Series – Light Dawns on a Weary World

December 1 & 4 “Waiting in the Dark” Psalm 139:1-12

December 8 “Holy Possibilities” Isaiah 40:1-11

December 15 & 18 “An Upside Down Christmas” Luke 1:26-56

December 22 “A Visit from Joseph” Matthew 1:18-25

No Crafty Quilters in December!

Meet again January 6th.

Sunday School Resumes January

5, Wednesday School & Confirma-

tion Resume January 8.

New Business:

1. Setting of the dates for the January Council meeting, the informational congregational meeting and the annual meeting. January council meeting will be held January 9, 2025. The congregational informational meeting will be held Sunday, January 19, 2025 in the fellowship hall and Wednesday, January 22, 2025 in the sanctuary. The Congregational Annual Meeting was set for Sunday, January 26, 2025. Annual Ministry Team Reports should be turned in to the office between January 6-8, 2025.

2. 2025 Budget. Audit committee will be comprised. Executive Council will meet at a later date to discuss the budget.

3. Nominating Committee. Gary Hagen, Lindsey Schultz & Sue Vee will be vacating their council positions. All three are 3year terms. Jim Stern volunteered at the 2024 Annual meeting to be on the nominating committee. Lindsey Schultz and Sue Vee will also be on the nominating committee. Prayerfully consider serving on the Good Shepherd Church Council if you should receive a call. If you are interested in serving on church council please contact someone from the nominating committee or call the church office.

4. Annual Ministry Team Reports should be turned into the office between January 6-8, 2025.

5. January Audit Committee will be contacted.

6. Nancy updated the council on a possible Dad’s Belgian Waffle fundraiser opportunity. Tabled to a later date.

7. Bylaws, Reconciliation & Continuing Resolutions discussed and how to keep them so they were easier to get at to review for a future pastor & council members.

Members of the council interviewed two candidates for the custodial position during the month of October. On November 1, 2024 an email was sent out to the council members for the approval of the hiring of Neil Berg as custodian at the rate of \$20/hr. for 15-20 hrs per week. By November 3, 2024 all council members had responded in favor of hiring Neil Berg. Motion carried.

Next meeting is set for December 12, 2024 at 5:30 pm. Devotions will be led by Brian.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Sue. Second by Bill. Motion carried. Meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Vee, Secretary

Good Shepherd church council met Thursday, November 21, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Brian. Devotions were led by Sue.

Those in attendance were. Brian Ehlert, Nancy Bruckhoff, Sue Vee, Pat Ojanen, Bill Groskreutz, Gary Hagen, Lindsey Schultz and Pastor Vern. Absent was Sara Lutteke.

Motion made by Bill to accept the agenda. Second by Sue. Motion carried.

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

Strategic Work – What Are We Doing & Why?

1. Financial Report discussed. Bill brought up that all expenses have exceeded the budgeted amount for this year.

President Brian will ask all Ministry Teams to freeze their spending and/or use the bare minimum needed. Will limit the color copies used each week as they are more expensive than the black & white. Property Insurance premium discussed – premium has increased \$9,000 over this past year. Property & Management is researching other companies. Discussion was held as to whether we are going to have to cash in the A. Yainske CD to cover operating expenses...this was tabled to next month.

2. Conversation was held among council members about where generosity shows up in each of our lives, in a way that feels important to each of us.

3. Response to the Stewardship Letter & Commitment Card. Council reviewed and approved the letter that will be sent out to the congregation sometime in after the New Year.

Old Business:

1. Update on the Transition Team work given by Pastor Vern. Can We Talk Sessions will be scheduled in January.

2. Kent Stern Retirement Party will be held after the 9:30 service on December 8, 2024. Council will serve fellowship.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR VERN

Lutherans have always used a lectionary in worship. A lectionary is a selection of texts appointed for use throughout the Church Year. This practice goes all the way back to Jesus, and even earlier. Jesus in Luke 4 teaches in the synagogue. He unrolls the scroll to Isaiah, a reading from the prophets assigned for the day.



On the eve of the Reformation, Martin Luther was using a one-year Historical Lectionary. This remained largely unchanged until the Vatican II Council in the 1960s. The Roman Catholic Church decided they could worship in a language other than Latin. In the process they adopted a three-year lectionary. Many Protestant churches, Lutherans included, soon followed suit. Thus, the Revised Common Lectionary was born.

We continue to use the **Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)** in worship today, though we don't normally include all four assigned readings: Old Testament, New Testament epistle, a psalm, and finally a gospel. These readings match each Sunday in the Church Year. One Gospel at a time takes center stage – Year A is Matthew, Year B is Mark, and Year C is Luke.

Readings from John are interspersed as needed.

A major alternative to the RCL came out of Luther Seminary in 2010. It's called the **Narrative Lectionary**. Rather than being centered simply around the Church Year, the Narrative Lectionary attempts to present the stories of the Bible on their own terms, and not in snippets. The goal is to help us better hear the voice of the Bible, the details of the plot, the action, and the hand of God at work in the lives of the characters.

In a nutshell, I'm writing to let you know that our major focus at Good Shepherd between Advent and Pentecost Sunday will be readings from the Narrative Lectionary. And just so you know, the vast majority of those readings will be from the Gospel of Luke. Hopefully, you will gain a better understanding of Luke in the process, and you will find it well worth your time.



Tis the Season to Give Back!
 Make the holiday brighter for someone in need. Help provide personal care products for the Wells Area Food Shelf. A Donation Box is in the Hall by the Office. This is Marlene Kauffman's

"Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen".

Worship and Music Ministry Team minutes 11-13-24
 Members present: JoAnn, Andrea, Dynette, Sandi, Jean, Pastor Vern and Lynne
 -Review of revised Funeral Guidelines. All in favor. -Wed service review: lanyards have been well received, confirmation students have been assisting with communion.
 -Pastor Vern will create a card for visitors. Possible gift and information for visitors will be discussed.
 -Thanksgiving Eve service will be at 6:15. Pastor Vern will find someone to head up a pie fest for after the service. Choir will sing an anthem
 -Lynne will find people to light the advent candles.
 -Christmas Eve service will be at 5. John Grunwald will sing "Oh Holy Night" for special music. The choir will also be singing. Mike Schrader will play for the service. We will have 2 stations for communion, with details to be finalized at our Dec meeting.
 -Pastor Vern will begin using the Narrative Lectionary.
 -Dynette moved, seconded by Sandi to submit \$3,000 for our 2025 yearly budget. All in favor.
 Next meeting date: Wed Dec 11 @ 10:30





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

Financial Info as of October 31, 2024

YTD Total Income	\$231,743
TYD Total Expense	\$278,277
Transferred to CD	\$50,000
Difference	\$-96,534
YTD Oper. Savings Used	\$60,000

Wednesday Night Menu

December 4 Goulash & Tater Tot Hotdish, ice cream dessert

December 11 Ham, cheesy hashed browns, corn, birthday cake and Mac n' cheese

Looking for a special cause during the coming holiday season?

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.



Youth and Education Minutes Nov. 5, 2024

Present: Pastor Vern, Lauryne Stern and Sara Theede

Youth and Ed was informed by Pastor Vern that Council has granted that the children from 1st grade and up will be taking communion starting in January. Discussion by Youth and Education and the procedures of educating the students will be implemented on the reason for Communion.

Christmas program rehearsals have begun. Limited lessons for Prek-4th and no classes for 5/6th grades will be held. We ask parents to be patient if they are not released by 7:45 on Weds. nights. The adult choir will also participate in the program. Thank you to the choir for your support.

The Christmas program will be held Wednesday Dec. 11 during the 6:15 worship service. It will be live-streamed for those watching from home. Last practice will be Dec. 4th (dress rehearsal) If there is bad weather, the Backup date for the Christmas program is Dec 18th. Next meeting- Dec. 10, 5:30.

Property and Management Nov. 2024

Members present: Pat Ojanen, Bill Groskreutz Jr., and Kent Stern.

Kent has started showing Neil the ropes, a lot to absorb but not overnight. We have a very good feeling about Neil, we have heard from other people that he is fussy about the work he does and Kent has seen that already. Welcome Neil. We went through a first draft of the 2025 budget especially the \$9,000.00 increase of our insurance premium.

Next meeting Dec. 3, at 5:00 pm

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. LUKE 2:4-5



Important Dates

Ministry teams annual reports due to office by Dec 31

Council meeting Jan 9

Annual Report available Jan 17 @ noon

Informational meeting Jan 19

Annual Congregational meeting Jan 26

gather
THE FAITH AND ACTION

“Gathering in His Word”

Tuesday December 3rd

A Women’s Bible Study meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Please join the leaders Marilyn Rauenhorst and Lauryne Stern in the Parlor (behind the kitchen) on October 1st. To get a subscription for the curriculum, visit gathermagazine.org. First time subscribers can get their first year for \$9.95!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Bonnie Groskreutz Richard Baird Sr.	3	4 Daryl Kruger	5 Shane Buendorf Stacy Magnuson	6 Bruce Johanson Elaine Grunzke John Vee	7 Trevor Foley
8 Amber Roessler Debra Colvin Mark Goldman	9	10 Ardene Breitkreutz Blake Rucker Jillian Jacobsen	11 Cayden Stern	12 Dennis Lutteke	13 Henry Garvick	14 Sheila O'Rourke
15 Albert Quade Lisa Ulferts	16 David Tatge Jacquelin Ramaker	17 Kathryn Ayers	18 Lindsey Schultz	19	20	21
22 Shari Winch	23	24 Julie Mattick Lauryne Stern	25 Mary Rollenhagen	26 Matthew Stern	27 Danielle Elg Jackson Spizzirri Jerad Billings Kathryn Ehlert Kim Stevermer Sydney Mathison	28 Jaxon Hart Sawyer Stern
29	30 Christine Tatge Diane Walters	31 Lillian Neubauer Tonya Franks				

Fellowship and Outreach Minutes

The fellowship/outreach team met on Wednesday, November 13 with the following members present-Pam Melby, Carol Jacobson, Marilyn Rauenhorst, Linda Hagen and Pastor Vern.

Pastor Vern informed us of the Jesus Food event happening at the USC Schools on Wednesday, January 8 from 4-6 p.m. He is planning on having the confirmation students do this for a service project. We would help recruit adults to work alongside the students on this project. We will reach out to people to help financially sponsor this program. Pastor Vern will contact Tim Strumer to get more information.

The Wells Ministerial will be having a free puzzle competition on Saturday, February 22 from 1-4 p.m. at the Nasinec Center. Anyone interested needs to sign up in groups of 5.

Pastor Vern suggested we have a Pie Fest on Wednesday's Thanksgiving Eve service where people who come stay for a slice of pie after church. Carol will check with the bakery and Dawn to see if either of them would be able to bake pies for this event.

Linda asked if any preparations for Kent's retirement party were being made. Pastor Vern was not aware of any at this time. He will check at the next council meeting.

Marilyn made the motion for our team to donate \$150 to both the Good Samaritan fund and to the Wednesday night meals. Motion seconded by Pam and passed.

Linda will send a thank you to Nancy Bruckhoff for her help with Sunday School, council and the transition team.

The next meeting will be Dec 11 at 4:00 p.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship and Communion 9:40am Sunday School during Worship	2 9:30am Builders of Bones!	3 9:00 am Bible Study 5pm Property & Management	4 5:15pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:15pm Worship & Holy Communion 7pm Program Dress Rehearsal	5 9:30am Builders of Bones!	6	7
8 9:30am Worship 9:40am Sunday School during Worship 10:30pm Kent Stern Retirement Coffee	9 9:30am Builders of Bones!	10 5:30pm Youth & Education	11 9:30am Worship & Music 4:00pm Outreach & Fellowship 5:15pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:15pm Children's Christmas Program	12 9:30am Builders of Bones! 5:30pm Church Council	13	14
15 9:30am Worship and Communion 9:40am Sunday School during Worship	16 9:30am Builders of Bones!	17	18 6:15pm Worship & Holy Communion	19 9:30am Builders of Bones!	20	21
22 9:30amm Worship	23 9:30am Builders of Bones! 10:30am Shepherd's Inn Communion	24 5pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26 9:30am Builders of Bones!	27	28
29 9:30am Worship and Communion	30 9:30am Builders of Bones!	31 Ministry Teams Annual Reports Due				