

THE MESSAGE

Good Shepherd & Our Savior's Lutheran Parish

January & February 2026

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR MICHAEL

Greetings and the Lord's blessings be upon you, the saints of God
at Good Shepherd and Our Savior's, Amen.

These last few months have seen us celebrate and host lots of events in our community. On December 21st, we had the baptism of Levi Johnson, and we welcomed him into the body of Christ. We hosted two youth movie nights on November 23rd and December 21st, and we watched "Evan Almighty" and "The Iron Giant" respectively. Our youth group also enjoyed some First Wednesday fun when we took our youth to Bagley and had pizza at Faith, and a night of bowling hijinks. We celebrated Christmas Eve at Good Shepherd and then hosted Christmas Day services at Our Savior's. And I was invited over to several of y'all's homes for the holidays, and I am immensely grateful for you including me in your holiday celebrations. With the coming and going of New Year's, we start off the year in the season of Christmas, before transitioning into the Time after Epiphany, which will begin January 11th.

Looking ahead, we have the day of Epiphany to look forward to, when we celebrate and commemorate the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. It is traditionally celebrated as a festival of lights, but we won't host a service for it; however, it will mark the change in seasons for us. We will be in the "Time after Epiphany" until we come to Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday this year on February 18th. We'll continue to host our Bible study on Tuesday evenings as we work our way through the book of Revelation. If you would like a Zoom link to join these studies online, just let me know, and I'd be happy to get you plugged in that way. Our next Social Statement conversation is scheduled for January 15th at 4PM, and we'll finish up discussing the statement on the environment. We will also be discussing if we want to increase the frequency of our meetings at that time. Our Youth Movie Nights will be hosted at Good Shepherd on January 18th and February 15th, and we'll be watching "Cool Runnings" and "Remember the Titans" respectively.

Epiphany, traditionally a "festival of lights," arrives during some of the year's longest nights. It witnesses to our God, who entered our dark world in the person of Jesus—sharing His full self with us and holding nothing back. This "light" of God's love, which the wise men journeyed to see, is the light that "the darkness has not overcome" (John 1:5). As people of faith, we now carry this light of Christ.

We live and work in a flawed, broken, and at times painfully dark world. But we have the opportunity, the responsibility really, to go out and share our light with others and the world so that even when things seem darkest or most cold, we offer a different way. Maybe this looks like you picking up a devotional practice at home so you can stoke your flame at home and share it in the world. Maybe this looks like inviting a neighbor or friend to worship with us and have their faith grow or be affirmed. You can share your light simply by doing a good deed and sharing kindness with others for no other reason than you love them and want to do them a kindness. So be mindful of your faith and how you live it out in this Epiphany season, for you never know the dark some people are sitting in until you shine your light of love on them, just as God shone His love on you when you came to faith.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Michael Wright.



MISSION OUTREACH

Thanks to your generous donations at Our Saviors and Good Shepherd, we raised over \$1770 to help purchase coats, boots, hats & gloves for kids at the Clearbrook-Gonvick School!

On November 30th, we hosted a gift-giving Christmas tree with gift suggestions for children attending school in Clearbrook-Gonvick who needed a little extra Christmas joy.

May you have a Blessed Christmas & Joyful New Year!



WHY I WAKE EARLY

Hello, sun in my face.
Hello, you who make the morning
and spread it over the fields
and into the faces of the tulips
and the nodding morning glories,
and into the windows of, even, the
miserable and crotchety-

best preacher that ever was,
dear star, that just happens
to be where you are in the universe
to keep us from ever-darkness,
to ease us with warm touching,
to hold us in the great hands of light-
good morning, good morning, good morning.
Watch, now, how I start the day
in happiness, in kindness.

by Mary Oliver

PASTORAL WORKS

Baptisms

@ Good Shepherd
Levi Julian Johnson - 12/21/25

Confirmation Service

Good Shepherd 10/26/25
Olivia Basinger
Lainey Fawver
Stella Wilde

Our Savior's 10/26/25
Bella Dahl
Avery Haugan

Confirmation Service

Faith Lutheran 11/2/25
Makalyn Hoie
Nicholas Anderson

2026 Food Shelf Dates:

January 21
June 10
September 23
December 2

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICES

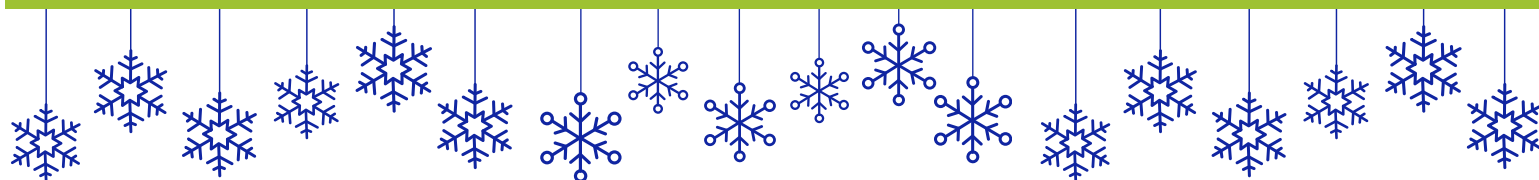
The newsletter will serve as the official notice to the congregations of the Annual meetings.

Good Shepherd Annual Meeting

Lunch to follow provided by the Youth

JANUARY 18, 2026 | 12:00 NOON | FOLLOWING 11 AM WORSHIP

(in the event of inclement weather - meeting will be moved to February 1st)



Our Saviors Annual Meeting

JANUARY 25, 2026 | FOLLOWING 11 AM WORSHIP

Potluck to follow

(in the event of inclement weather - meeting will be moved to February 8th)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

October

Gen. Fund beginning balance 10/1/25

\$ 32,451.72

Good Shepherd Receipts

\$ 12,210.24

Our Savior's Receipts

\$ 1,829.55

Expenses

\$ 16,531.24

Transfer to Other Funds

\$ -485.00

End balance 10/31/25

\$ 29,475.27

November

Gen. Fund beginning balance 11/1/25

\$ 29,475.27

Good Shepherd Receipts

\$ 21,713.50

Our Savior's Receipts

\$ 1,804.98

Expenses

\$ 10,517.50

Transfer to Other Funds

\$ -500.00

End balance 11/30/25

\$ 41,976.25

Giving made EASY

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



*Scan the code above to
give electronically!*

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY SCHOOL

January News:

During January, we are going to take a break from Sunday School. Please take time to be with your family during this very busy month.

I praise you because I am
fearfully and wonderfully made...
Psalm 139:14



SUNDAY SCHOOL FUN!

✦ Let's try something new! ✦

On February 8th, we will be beginning Sunday School following the children's sermon.

The kids will have time for fellowship, a lesson, and fun.

They will be done at 10:00 am to join their families for coffee hour!

YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, Jan. 18 @ 5:00



3rd Grade
and Up!

Food & Fun!!!!
@Good Shepherd Church

Kids in 3rd Grade and Up!
Join Pr. Michael for movie
night each month!

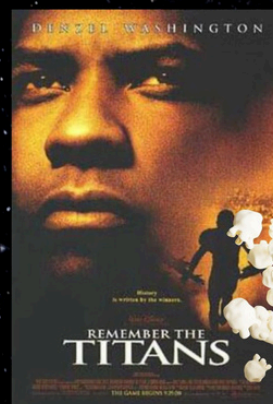
Lots of fun!

Lots of food!

Lots of laughter!

YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, Feb. 15 @ 5:00



3rd Grade
and Up!

Food & Fun!!!!
@Good Shepherd Church

CONFIRMATION & YOUTH

Upcoming Confirmation Schedule



January

- 7 1st Wednesday
- 14 Class
- 21 Class
- 28 Class

February

- 4 1st Wednesday
- 11 Class
- 18 Ash Wednesday Worship
- 25 Lenten Supper & Worship

March

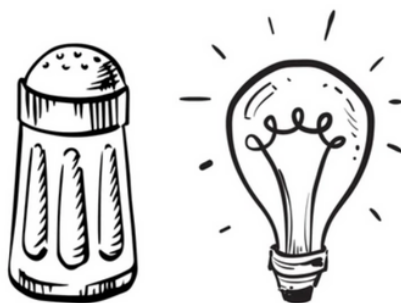
- 4 Lenten Supper & Worship
- 11 Lenten Supper & Worship
- 18 Lenten Supper & Worship
- 25 Lenten Supper & Worship
- 29 Palm Sunday Worship

April

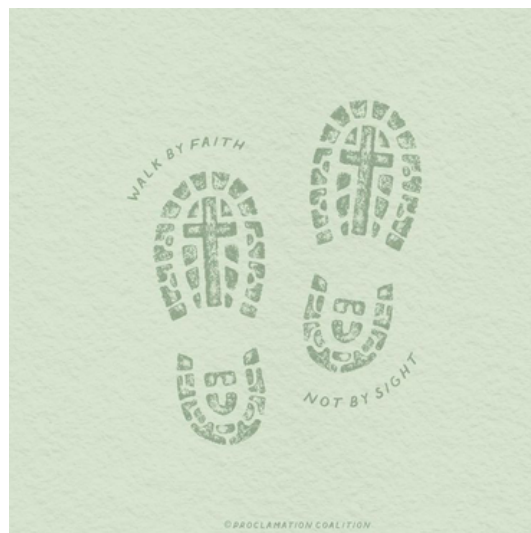
- 1 Holy Week - No Class
- 5 Easter Sunday
- 8 Class
- 15 Class
- 22 Class
- 29 Class



BE THESE:

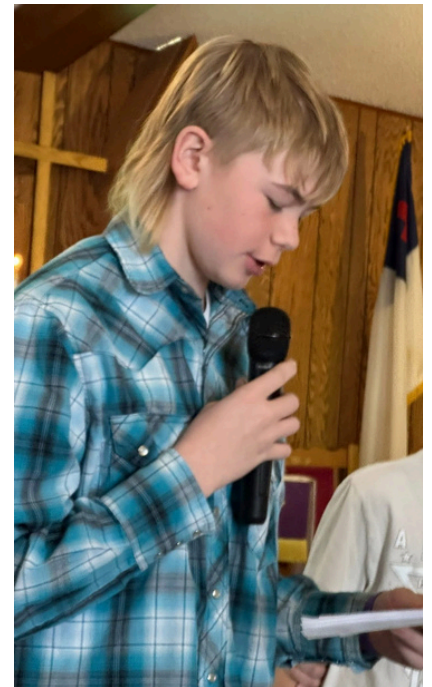


MATTHEW 5:13-16

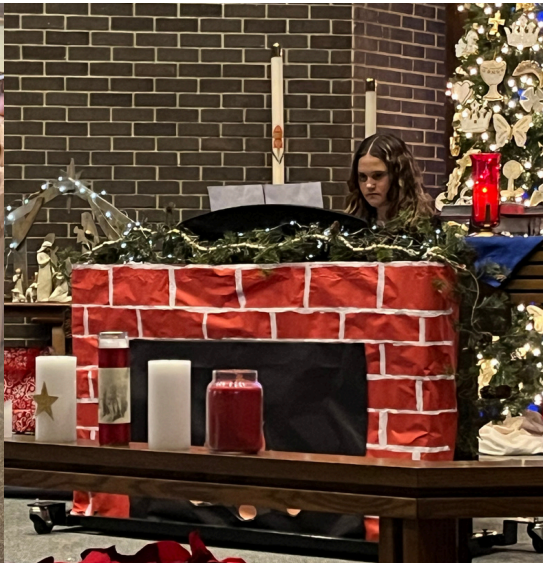


December First Wednesday Bowling!

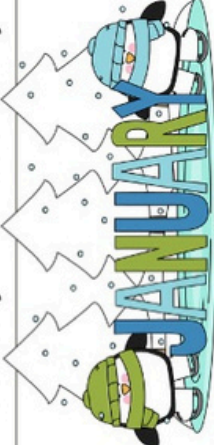
Christmas Programs!



Christmas Programs!



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Pr. Michael's Hours Monday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday by appointment	Kay's Office Hours Tuesday 8:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Wednesday - Friday 8:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	1	2	3
4 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship Our Saviors 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	5 	6 Bible Study 5:30 pm	7 First Wednesday @ Good Shepherd 6 - 7 pm	8 Men's Breakfast 8 am @ the D&R in Bagley	9	10
11 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship Our Saviors 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	12 Good Shepherd Church Council 7 pm	13 Bible Study 5:30 pm	14 Confirmation @ Good Shepherd 6:00 - 7:00 pm	15 OS WELCA @ 2:00 pm	16	17
18 Good Shepherd 11 am Worship 12 noon GS Annual Mtg. (Lunch to Follow) Our Saviors 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School Youth Group Movie Night 5:00 pm	Annual Meetings!		20 Bible Study 5:30 pm	21 Food Shelf Good Shepherd serves Confirmation @ Good Shepherd 6:00 - 7:00 pm	22	23
25 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship Our Saviors 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 12 noon OS Annual Mtg. (Lunch to Follow).	26 	27 Bible Study 5:30 pm	28 Confirmation @ Good Shepherd 6:00 - 7:00 pm	29 	30	31

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship Our Saviors 11 am Worship	2	3	4 Last Supper & Burning of the Palms First Wednesday @ Good Shepherd 6 – 7 pm	5 Men's Breakfast 8 am @ the Leonard Café in Leonard	6	7
8 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship & Sunday School Our Saviors 11 am Worship	9 Good Shepherd Church Council 7 pm	10 Bible Study 5:30 pm	11 Confirmation @ Good Shepherd 6:00 – 7:00 pm	12	13	14 Mission Day at Our Savior's 12:00 pm luncheon with program to follow
15 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship & Sunday School Our Saviors 11 am Worship Youth Group Movie Night 5:00 pm	16	17 Bible Study 5:30 pm	18 Ash Wednesday @ Good Shepherd 5:45 p.m. Worship	19 OS WELCA @ 2:00 pm Our Savior's Church Council 6 pm	20	21
22 Good Shepherd 9 am Worship & Sunday School Our Saviors 11 am Worship	23	24 Bible Study 5:30 pm	25 Lenten Worship & Supper 5:45 pm Worship Supper to Follow	26	27	28
Pr. Michael's Hours Monday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday by appointment	Kay's Office Hours Tuesday 8:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Wednesday - Friday 8:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.					

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH



Office Hours

Kay's Hours

Tuesday

8:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Friday

8:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Pr. Michael's Hours

Monday

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday – Thursday
by appointment

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