



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

# The Shepherd's Scroll

P r e a c h i n g , T e a c h i n g , a n d R e a c h i n g i n J e s u s ' N a m e

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



The early Christian church grew up in a time of turmoil – both political and natural. The people who followed the Way of Jesus not only dealt with wars and violence, natural disasters and petty, tyrannical rulers, but also had to navigate occasional persecutions because of their faith. In short, the 1<sup>st</sup> Century was not an easy time to be a Christian; nor was it an easy time to simply exist as a human – at least in the Roman empire.

Today, we also live in a time of turmoil. Wars and violence are in the news daily. A new natural disaster (sometimes caused by or exacerbated by human action) strikes every week. We see people suffering in our own communities, neighboring states, and around the world. We live with worry for our children and grandchildren, unsure of what the future might hold for them. We grieve as rights are removed for trans-siblings and for women and as people of color face greater and greater threats.

A daily scroll of social media becomes a minefield of pain and dis-information. Conversations become harder. We are tempted to turn it all off and just huddle in our houses under our covers and turn the music up to shut out the world. I don't think that's just me.

When the apostle Paul writes to early Christians, he writes to people who are most likely tempted to do the same: to keep to themselves, be only in their community, focus on being good people, and shut out the larger world.

Nice idea, but impractical. And even more so today. We don't really have the option of just tuning out and shutting off – not for long, anyway. As people of faith who care about the most vulnerable, we also have the calling to pay attention to injustices visited upon others and to stand up, reach out, and help where we can.



One of the passages that I return to, time and time again, during these difficult days is Philippians 4:4-8. Paul writes to a troubled congregation living through troubled times. He speaks about struggle and death, and then says, in the next sentence: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." Rejoice? In troubled times? How?

But Paul goes on: "Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

For Paul, rejoicing (joy) is possible even during difficult times because 1) the Lord is near; 2) we can (and should!) bring our worries to God in prayer; 3) unlikely though it seems, we have good things to think about even amidst the bad things; and 4) the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds.

When was the last time you thought about that line – the peace that surpasses understanding? What does that even mean? Peace that goes beyond our capacity to grasp it? Sure. But it also refers to peace that defies reality. Peace that, given everything else going on, doesn't make sense for us to possess – except through the grace of God.

That peace – the peace that is God-given, that defies reality, that flies in the face of all of the horrible news and terrifying reports – is what is sustaining me right now. That doesn't mean I'm not paying attention, praying, trying to help in what ways I can. But it does mean that, through the grace of God, my heart and mind can still find peace.

I truly pray that your heart and mind can find that same deep peace, too.

In Christ,  
Pastor Lynette



## **WORSHIP NEWS**

**February 1 – Presentation of our Lord 9AM;  
Messy Church at 10:15 AM**

**February 8 – Salt and Light; Pr. Lynette is  
also supplying at St. Andrew's Campus  
Center at 7 PM in the evening**

**February 15 – Transfiguration of our Lord;  
Communion at the altar rail**

**February 18 – Ash Wednesday 7PM Worship  
Drive-thru Ashes Noon – 1 PM**

**February 22 – First Sunday in Lent**

**February 25 – Midweek Lenten Services  
start – see below for more info**

us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross—the place to which the season of Lent leads us—is the reason we never mourn as those without hope. **Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.**



### **ADULT FORUM**

**Sunday mornings at  
10:15AM**

**GSLC Choir Room**



### **Midweek Lent 2026 Holden Evening Prayer and Holy Lament**

Along with Holden Evening Prayer, we'll spend time this Lent exploring various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This timely series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there not a disapproving God but one who weeps with

### **February 1 - The Book of Hebrews – Part 2**

Pastor Cinda completes her presentation featuring the main themes of this engaging portion of the New Testament. Major themes are the superiority of Jesus, and perseverance of faith in Christ.

**February 8 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer – A Story of Courage and Faith.** Al Mytty will lead us in a viewing and discussion of the 25-minute video "Bonhoeffer: The Preacher and the Swastika".

**February 15 - Fasnacht Breakfast.** No Adult Forum. Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

### **February 22 - Hymns of Susan Palo Cherwien.**

Pastor Janet Lepp will lead us. Susan Palo Cherwien (1953 – 2021), was a poet and musician whose carefully crafted poetry has captured our hearts and imaginations through many of the hymns found in our hymnals. We will celebrate her remarkable gift to the church as we explore her work and sing her hymns. First Sunday in Lent.





## GO. Together! 2026 Synod Relation-Trip

Make plans today to join in this one-day synod-wide relation trip to the Champaign-Urbana area where we will serve neighbors in need and build relationships across our communities of disciples. Projects include work at Sola Gratia Farm, a bike rodeo with St. Matthew's Lutheran, Urbana, work at a clothing distribution center, painting and building projects at St. Andrew's Campus Center, projects with LSSI, and more! You pick your projects when you register!

**Registration available at [CSIS-ELCA.org/gotogether](https://CSIS-ELCA.org/gotogether) Please register before March 20.**

**Date/Time: Saturday, April 18, 2026 9 AM - 4:30 PM**

**Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Champaign, host congregation.**

**All projects are within a 5 mile/15 minute drive of Good Shepherd.**

**Cost: \$10 / person helps us plan and provide snacks and water**

- Many projects are accessible and open to folks of all ages.
- Everyone can participate in up to two different projects.
- Lunch is on your own. Suggestions will be offered, but the C-U area is full of options.
- Refreshments will be available both beginning and end of the day.

*Event organized by the New and Renewing Congregations Team of C/SIS*

## SMALL GROUPS @ GSLC

### DWELLING TOGETHER

**2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
10:15AM**

Sit down for a chat, a conversation about a Bible passage, mutual support & prayer in the Small Group Room near the Library. Led by Sue Plisch.



### GSLC PIECE MAKERS

**Tuesdays  
Noon-3PM**

**GSLC Quilt Room**

No experience necessary. Most of our time is spent sorting, cutting, and ironing fabric. Jobs for every skill level! All are welcome! Contact Lois McConomy or Jodi Davis for more info.



**CANCER PRAYER & SUPPORT GROUP**  
**Thursday, February 26  
6PM**  
**Small Group Gathering Room**

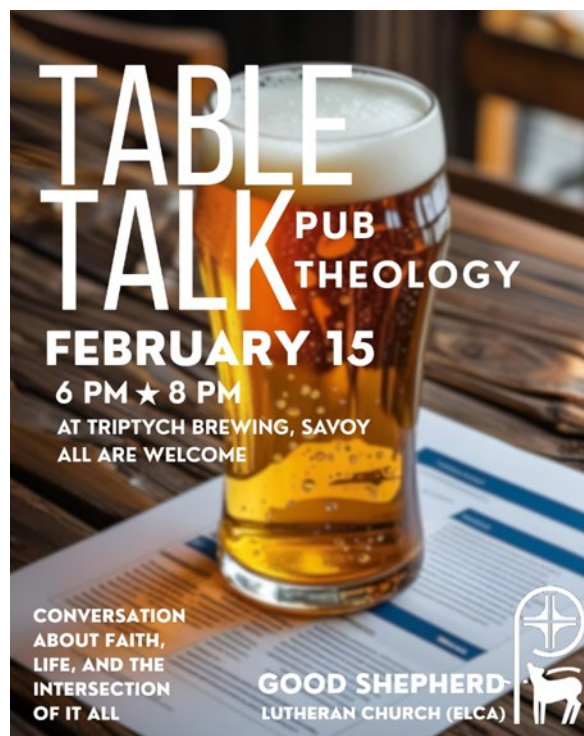


**Join the men for coffee time!  
All men are welcome!**

## FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

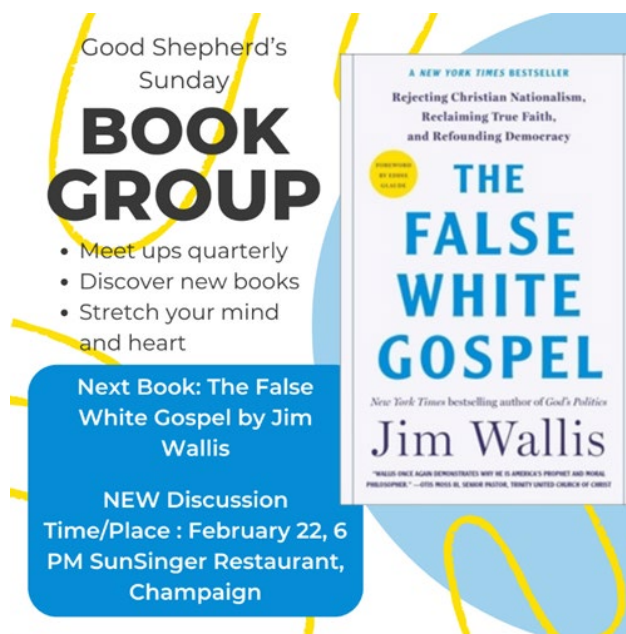


**LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY**  
**SECOND SATURDAY SERIES**  
**Saturday, February 14, 9AM**



**FASTNACHT**  
**PANCAKE**  
**BREAKFAST**

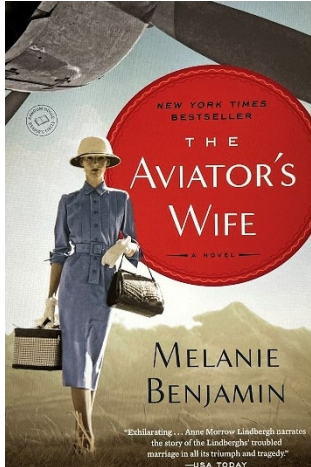
Please join us for a pancake Fastnacht breakfast on February 15 after the service. Pancakes, bacon, and beverages will be provided. Please see the following link or sign-up via the sheet in the Narthex if you'd like to volunteer to bring additional baked goods/fruit or help with set up or clean up.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F48AEAA2BA4F85-61632323-fellowship>



**GSLC Book Group – Because of the conflict with the dedication of St. Andrew's in January, we moved our Book Group date to Sunday February 22 - More time to read the book! Hope you can join us!**



## Women of the ELCA



### WELCA BOOK CLUB

**Thursday**  
**February 12, 9:30AM**  
**GSLC Choir Room**

***The Aviator's Wife***  
**By Melanie Benjamin**

This historical fiction novel imagines the life of Anne Morrow Lindberg, the wife of Charles Lindberg. It incorporates many real facts and events from their lives. It explores their very complicated marriage and the challenges they faced in the public eye.

Questions, contact Jan Nuss.

March book: *A Fever In The Heartland* by  
Timothy Eagan



**We use studies from *Gather Magazine*.**  
**Extra copies available in the hallway near the**  
**restrooms.**

## IT'S TIME TO BUY LWR PERSONAL CARE SUPPLIES

We will once again in May have a brunch and meet to assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We'll have a large box in the narthex for your donations. We cannot use worn towels, **all items should be new**. Walmart for towels and Dollar Tree for toenail clippers have been the best places. Yes, this is early for our shopping list, but it does give us plenty of time to purchase the needed supplies.

### Here is what we need for each kit:



**1 bath towel**, dark color,  
not a bath sheet



**toenail clippers**



**toothbrush**, soft bristles



**sturdy comb**



**2 bars of soap**, 4 ounces each,  
individually wrapped (not boxed)

We try not to send materials in cardboard or heavy packaging to save on postage expenses. We will take off all packaging and stickers before we wrap the supplies for each kit together. If you prefer to donate cash so we can purchase these items, please donate to WELCA for LWR or Personal Care Kits. Thank you for purchasing these items. The need is always great. For questions contact Gail Block.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

### **ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CAMPUS CENTER MEALS**

**St. Andrew's is now in their new building and can have groups come in and cook or provide supplies for students to cook, or pans of food can be dropped off to be heated in the ovens.** We are no longer limited to crockpot meals!

Good Shepherd will continue to provide meals for 10-15 people on the **first Sunday of the month, and we are committed to the following dates:**

**Feb 1, Mar 1, April 5 and May 3.**

If you are interested in providing food for our friends at St. Andrew's let Agatha know! She can pick up items at Good Shepherd or stop by your house, if that is more convenient!

**Here are the themes for the upcoming meals:**

**\*February - Souper Supper!** One vegetarian soup and another type of soup, plus bread/rolls, salad and a dessert will be a great start.

**\*March - Backyard BBQ!** We will need hot dogs & buns, veggie burgers & buns, potato salad, & potato chips. Additional items like fruit, baked beans, veggies & dip or mac 'n cheese are welcome!

**\*April - Have a favorite casserole St. Andrew's can cook in the oven that you'd like them to try?** Two dinner casseroles (one vegetarian, please) and items to round out the meal would be fantastic!

**\*May - Breakfast for dinner!** Items to make waffles or pancakes (2 dozen eggs, pancake/waffle mix, milk, syrup, butter),

bacon and/or sausage, and fresh fruit. Additional items like orange juice, cranberry juice, items to make a breakfast quiche (pie crust, egg beaters, diced veggies) will also be appreciated.

Items that need to be prepared will need to be ready for drop/pick up earlier in the week (by Wednesday), items that just need to be reheated in the oven or microwave can be ready for drop/pick up by 4:00 on Sunday.

**ONE WINTER NIGHT**  
February 6

**Come by church  
Friday, Feb. 6th anytime  
after 6pm to hear more  
about  
C-U at Home**

**GOOD SHEPHERD  
Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

**Good Shepherd's giving page for  
One Winter Night the annual  
fundraiser for C-U at Home!**

**Two other ways to donate:**

- write a check to Good Shepherd, with One Winter Night in the memo line.
- contribute through Good Shepherd's website. Click on GIVE and scroll to the bottom. There's a link for One Winter Night.

**<https://secure.myvanco.com/YK64/home>**

**Join other members of Good Shepherd to share a soup supper at 5:30pm on February 6 and to hear about the work of CU at Home and the One Winter Night event.** Afterwards we'll gather outside in front of the church around a fire pit. Use this link to sign up for soup supper items:

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F48AEAA2BA4F85-61629737-onewinter>**



## GIVING UPDATES

**Christmas Offering – Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$1280 on Christmas Eve for the work of feeding neighbors in need. \$640 of that total will help stock our Little Food Pantry, which is emptied and refilled multiple times a day!**

The other \$640 was given to our siblings in Christ at Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), just north of us on Prospect at Springfield. That gift will help their weekly food distribution, which is currently serving 80 families a week.

Thanks again!



## LSSI FOSTER CARE CHRISTMAS

**To the congregation of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church:**

On behalf of the children and families served by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Champaign and Danville, we would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who generously purchased gifts using our pilot program this year, Mindful Giving. For being a new-to-everyone pilot program, Mindful Giving 2025 was a huge success. We were able to give approximately 300 gifts to our children in foster care within the Champaign-Urbana, Danville areas.

YOU deserve all the credit for our children having a more joyous Christmas! Thank You!



We are thankful that you stuck with us as we navigated a new giving program. It was a learning experience for all of us. While it was a huge success, we understand the value and excitement of families spending time together by going shopping and handpicking gifts, Christmas 2026 giving will encompass both the online Mindful Giving platform, along with the option to pick a tag with a child's or family's info to take with you to do in person shopping. You will be able to choose which one works better for you.

Thank you again for your continuous and generous support each year! Please know that you make a difference!

Many blessings in 2026!

Deb and all the staff at LSSI



# CHECK OUT

## What We've Done!

December 2025

Our Outreach committee was joined by Emmanuel Episcopal and First United Methodist in a "Diaper Drive" to replenish the supply at an empty tomb.

Over 7,000 diapers were collected which should last until spring 2026. Good Shepherd's contribution was funded by Thrivent and donations.

GOOD SHEPHERD Lutheran Church (ELCA)



## YOUTH NEWS



**MESSY CHURCH!**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 10:15-11:15 AM

ALL AGES WELCOME!

GLUE AND GLITTER AND PAINT, OH MY!

THEME: JESUS - THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

**MESSY CHURCH**  
 Sunday, February 1, 10:15AM  
 GSLC Fellowship Hall



**GOD SQUAD  
 YOUTH GROUP**  
 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders  
 Saturday, January 31  
 6-8PM  
 Hot and Cold!

Walking tacos (with hot sauce on the side!), cold feet challenge, and conversation about the hots and colds of our faith. Friends are welcome. The Game Room will be open. Sardines will be included (if desired).



**College Care Kits**

- ☒ Snacks
- ☒ Cards
- ☒ Letters
- ☒ Comfort items

We invite you to donate at least **12 of each item** so that all of our college kids get a full care kit!

 **GOOD SHEPHERD**  
 Lutheran Church (ELCA)

### COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Items will be collected February 1-15 and sent off to our college students on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Desired items include:

- Candy, gum, and mints
- Sweet and salty snacks: pretzels, granola bars, crackers, fruit chews
- Hot cocoa mix
- Microwaveable foods: popcorn packets, mug cake mixes, macaroni and cheese, instant oatmeal
- Stress squeezers
- Sticky notes and other fun office supplies
- Adult coloring books, puzzle books, and colored pencils or markers for brain breaks
- Gift cards to chain eateries, online shopping, or food delivery services

**We have 12 college students currently, so please bring in enough for 12. Thanks!**

Someone You  
Should Know!



Myrna

# LIVE LOVE

## Volunteer Spotlight



GOOD SHEPHERD  
Lutheran Church (ELCA)

*How long have you been a part of Good Shepherd?*

Thirty-five years.

*Finish the sentence: Discipleship is..... Or Following Jesus means.....*

Loving our friends and acquaintances. Showing our love by giving our time, efforts, and presence.

*What are you passionate about? How did you discover that passion?*

I'm very strong on supporting others who are hurting--either physically or mentally. I have no formal training in health care, but a lot of life experience in dealing with pain and loss. I lend a helpful ear, showing the sufferer that they are not alone.

*You were recommended by a member of GSLC. Does that surprise you? What should people know about the community service work/work that you do?*

It does surprise me that I was nominated for this recognition.

Many people have known me as the yard-work lady at Good Shepherd or St. Andrews. That was due to my volunteering in that capacity for over 30 years. Since I am now mostly unable to keep up the yard work, that has become a thing of the past. I do miss it.

*What is one thing you're deeply grateful for right now?*

I am deeply grateful that right now, my lord has blessed me with relief from heart issues for which I've suffered for 27 plus years. This blessing can be temporary, but still, I am deeply grateful.

*What about your work (volunteer or paid) is the most fulfilling to you?*

Fulfilling things from my past work at Good Shepherd were serving on Church Council (recording secretary) and serving several years as WELCA treasurer. Both were very educational and gave me great opportunities to serve. Singing in the choir (with at least four directors), was so rewarding and fun.

*Why are you a part of this congregation?*

I am a Good Shepherd member because I met a long-term Good Shepherd member, attended services with him, learned about Lutheranism, and changed my church membership from a Baptist church in Olney to Good Shepherd.

*What is a favorite memory you have here at GSLC?*

A favorite memory at Good Shepherd is our wedding in 1992. Our pastor was Edward Schneider.

*Who do you think we should know more about here at Good Shepherd? Who would you recommend that we interview/talk to?*

I believe our membership should know about Jeanette Vetter, one of Good Shepherd's newer members.



# FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

# SERVING

	2/1/2026	2/8/2026	2/15/2026	2/18/2026 ASH WEDNESDAY	2/22/2026
Acolyte	Donovan Dewing	Jake Brucker	Declan O'Connell	Donovan Dewing	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Communion Assistants	Gail Block	Rebecca Nef-Heffernan	Nancy Holm		
	Susan Barreto	Mary Szyzka	Ash Waller	Nancy Holm	Tori Corkery
	Lucas Barreto	Joe Chamley	Becky Cook	Becky Cook	Cinda Brucker
			Jenelle Keene	Dean Olson	Lois McConomy
Reader	Tori Corkery	Dean Olson	Sue Plisch	Nancy Olson	Bob Coverdill
Chancel Care	Mary Szyzka	Mary Szyzka	Jenelle Keene	Beth Followell	Jenelle Keene
Nursery	Jenelle Keene	Lisa Young	Lisa Young	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Marla Todd
Usher	Sue Plisch	Eric Brucker	Don Block	Agatha Barnes	Ash Waller
Flower Delivery	Deb Swanson	Laurie Johnson	Carol Steinman	N/A	Rick & Cindy Marrs
Live Stream	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann
Coffee/Donuts	Kim McFarland, Becky Fisher, Samantha Fisher, Nancy Olson	Laurie Johnson	Patty Hart & Lisa Young	N/A	Don Block & Kim McFarland
Food Delivery	Jenelle Keene	Deb Swanson	Ruth Meyer	N/A	Rebecca Nef-Heffernan & Laurie Johnson
Food Packing	Lisa Young	Patty Hart	Carol Steinman	N/A	N/A

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer on Sunday mornings, please contact Traci in the church office at [staff@gscl-cu.org](mailto:staff@gscl-cu.org) to be added to our volunteer list.





Pastor	Lynette Chapman
Parish Admin. Asst.	Traci Shepherd
Treasurer	Bob Clark
Keyboardist	Leon Harrell
Custodian	Dennis Lage
Bookkeeper	Dana VanDeveer Jones
Program Assistant	Katrina Widholm
Parish Nurses	Sandy Reifsteck
	Elizabeth Kakoma
	Celeste Coverdill

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday – Thursday 8:00AM-3:00PM**

**Friday 8:00AM-Noon**

***Deadline for Scroll is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.***

***Bulletin / Announcement / Shout Out Deadline is Wednesday at noon each week.***

***If you would like to receive a printed copy of the Scroll, please contact Traci at [staff@qslc-cu.org](mailto:staff@qslc-cu.org).  
Paper copies are also available at the church.***