GOOD SHEPHERD Lutheran Church (ELCA)

The Shepherd's Scroll

Monthly Newsletter

Preaching, Teaching, and Reaching in Jesus' Name



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

If you've been around Good Shepherd a while, you know this. If you are new, then this is something to know! Deacon Jason Fisher, member of GSLC, former staff person here, and current Director of Evangelical Mission for the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, has a consistent response to the question, "How are you doing?" He always answers, "I am grateful." Good day, bad day, in-between day, busy day, quiet day, frustrating day – always he replies, "I am grateful." It's part of his identity, part of his spiritual practice, part of his faithful outlook on life.

"So, how are you today, Pastor?" With Deacon Jason, I will respond: I am grateful. Maybe writing about gratitude in November – the month that we in the United States celebrate Thanksgiving – is a bit trite. But it's still true. I am grateful. I am grateful for my call here at Good Shepherd, grateful to be serving the Lord alongside all of you. I am grateful for the presence of Vicar Hanna and for the gifts she brings to our congregation. I am grateful for how you've all embraced her and her learning year here among us, welcomed her and are supporting her as she grows every day into the pastor she is called to be.

I am grateful for the opportunity to tackle difficult subjects with you – whether it's exploring the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and ELCA statements of remorse and reparation to Indigenous peoples, reading books in book group that challenge white supremacy, Biblical literalism, or Christian nationalism, debating the use of AI at Pub Theology, or hosting conversations about the ongoing genocide in Gaza alongside the screening of a heart-wrenching film. Not every congregation has the courage to engage in difficult conversations, and I am grateful that so many of you are willing to think carefully, to converse caringly, and to act with love around these subjects.

I am grateful also for the many volunteers who give of their time and energy in and through Good Shepherd. Two years ago, I tallied (approximately) the number of hours GSLC folks spent volunteering – just through Good Shepherd, not in ways beyond our congregation – and it was an enormous number. It seems to me that those efforts have only grown. You are daily doing God's work with your hands, and I am grateful – as are the many others you help.

I am grateful for the opportunity to gather weekly with you in worship, to share the Word and the Sacraments, to welcome new siblings in worship and ministry, to raise our voices in praise and prayer together. I am grateful for the young people whose questions and insights encourage me to see our faith and practices in fresh ways. I am grateful.

I could fill up the rest of this Scroll with things and people for which I am grateful: my colleagues and family, my husband and friends, mentors and co-workers, creation and animal companions…. The list is endless. Instead, I'll invite you to enter this newsletter with a sense of gratitude yourself. Perhaps as a spiritual practice, you could respond to every article you read, every name you see in these pages with those words of Deacon Jason: "I am grateful." I am grateful for the worship opportunities upcoming. I am grateful for the things folks will learn at Adult Forum and those who will teach. I am grateful for what WELCA is doing and that our Youth Group has opportunities to gather. I am grateful for book clubs and Bible studies that bring folks together. I am grateful for the volunteers whose names are in the chart on the last pages….

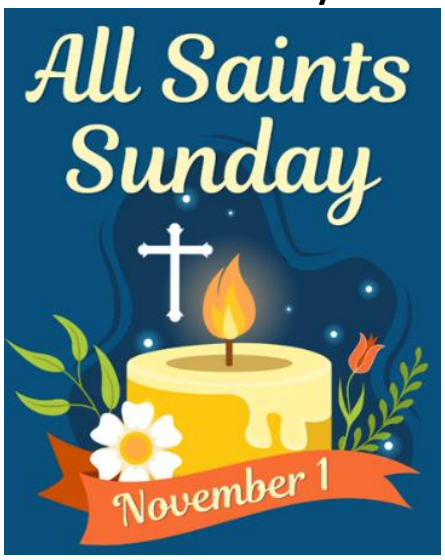
May we be ever and eternally grateful for our shared call and for the Holy Spirit who enables us to answer. May we daily and weekly be grateful for the signs of God at work in and through this place. May we be grateful – in Jesus' name.

Pastor Lynette Chapman

Have you noticed a furry visitor in worship recently? Nikola, Vicar Hanna's dog, has been visiting in worship occasionally, on a trial basis. Nikola is recovering from a traumatic spinal condition and cannot currently be left alone at home. This means that Vicar Hanna must pay a dogsitter on Sunday mornings - as well as any other time - when she can't have him with her. As you can imagine, that gets expensive! One of our members volunteered to try watching him during worship a few Sundays to see how it might go. We're currently evaluating whether we should continue this or not as a regular thing. While Nikola is a low-shedding and low-allergy breed, he is still a dog, which we understand is not everyone's cup of tea. And although he is a certified Psychiatric Service Dog, he is not currently working because of the injury. We thank you for your understanding and patience as we try to figure out a good path forward.

WORSHIP NEWS

November 1 – All Saints Day – with candle-lighting and bells, we'll remember those saints who have gone before us and celebrate our own identity in Christ



November 15 – All Creatures Great and Small Stewardship Celebration

November 22 – Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation/Christ the King



November 29 – First Sunday of Advent; Name-tag Sunday



Join our handbell ringers! Questions? Contact Leon Harrell



SMALL GROUPS @ GSLC



DWELLING TOGETHER SMALL GROUP

Every first & third Sunday 10:15AM

GSLC Small Group Gathering Room



CANCER PRAYER & SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, December 3 6PM

(Our normal gathering dates for November & December happen to fall on holidays.)

GSLC Choir Room (Note location change)



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.

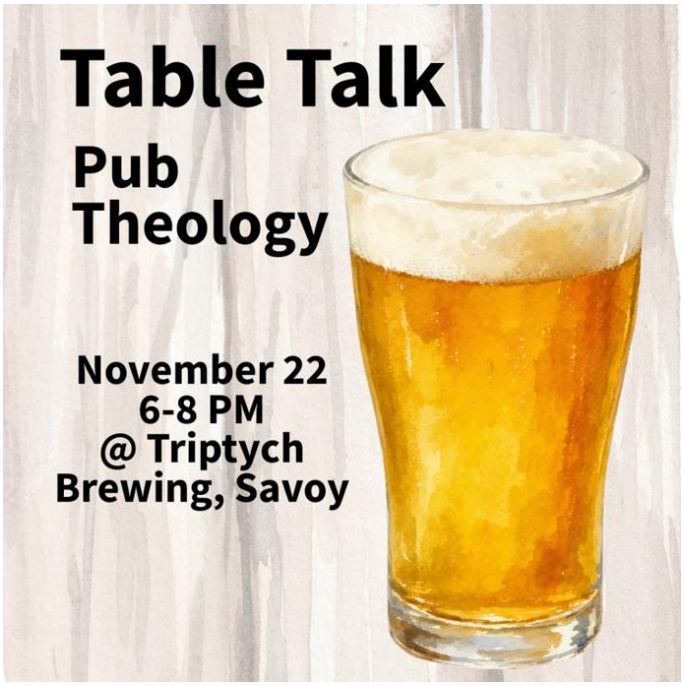


Join the men for coffee time!

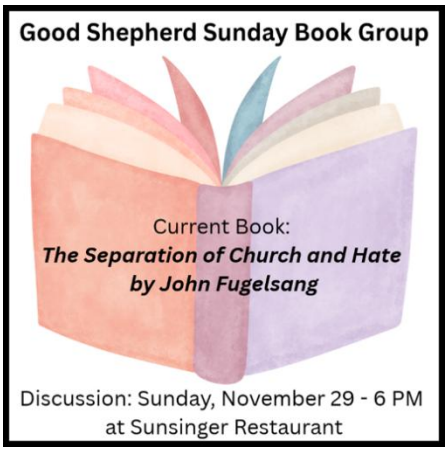


FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

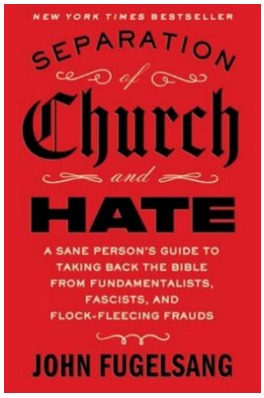




Join us to discuss life, faith, current events, and more in thoughtful and thought-provoking ways.



SUNDAY EVENING BOOK GROUP



Sunday, November 29
6PM
SunSinger Restaurant
Champaign

Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-fleecing Frauds

Pick up a copy from a local bookstore or library, listen to it on your favorite audio book app, and join us for a spirited discussion.

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday, November 15 – Meet up at The Yard with the others from the congregation at 11:30; then walk with Pastor across the street to Parcadia for mini-golf (no charge) and games, if we have time. Pick up by parents at 1:30.

Sunday, December 6 - starting with the bonfire event at 5PM and then continuing with our own things until 8PM, including flashlight Sardines!

CHARLOTTE NOLTE BAPTISM











GROW IN YOUR FAITH



ADULT FORUM TOPICS

November 1: Becoming Saints

Nancy Olson describes how a saint becomes a Saint. Though we're all called to be saints, certain people through the ages have been singled out in the Christian tradition.

The Roman Catholic Church even has a process, canonization for proclaiming them Saints with a capital S. It's not a process for everyone, not even the most exemplary.

November 8: Messy Church – The Good Shepherd

November 15: Reclaiming Evangelism - Sharing Our Faith with Courage and Care, Part 1. Led by Pastor Lynette.

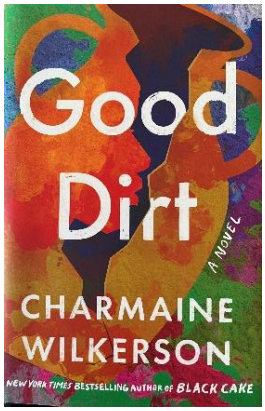
November 22: Reclaiming Evangelism - Sharing Our Faith with Courage and Care, Part 2. Led by Pastor Lynette.



If you'd like to help in one of our classrooms, please talk to Katrina or to Pastor Lynette. We want two adults in each classroom EVERY WEEK. Thanks in advance for YOUR willingness to make an impact in the lives of our children and youth!



Women of the ELCA



WELCA BOOK CLUB

Thursday
November 12, 9:30AM
GSLC Choir Room

Good Dirt
by Charmaine Wilkerson

This novel is a multi-generational novel by Charmaine Wilkerson that follows Ebony "Ebby" Freeman an affluent black New England woman haunted by an unsolved home invasion 18 years prior. Her brother Baz was murdered and a treasured family stoneware jar was shattered. The story traces the reverberations of a crime, the fracturing of a family, and the mirrored choices we face when we try to ease the wounds of the past. Contact Jan Nuss with questions.

Book for December: *Ordinary Grace*
by William Kent Kruger



WELCA (WOMEN'S) BIBLE STUDY

Sessions are on the **3rd Tuesday of each month**. Copies of "GATHER" magazine are kept in the hallway near the nursery.

Contact Carol Manley with questions.

Subscriptions to both the physical and digital magazine can be obtained using this link:
https://www.gathermagazine.org/

WELCA THANKOFFERING

Each November, Good Shepherd's Women of the ELCA group (WELCA) collects donations from women at our church that help fund the initiatives and ministries of the national WELCA office. The donations support advocacy efforts against human trafficking, domestic violence and racial injustice and for programs focused on raising up healthy women, girls and families.

The monies also fund many educational resources, publications such as the *Gather* magazine that our bible study group uses, grants, scholarships, and the triennial WELCA convention. Please see the national WELCA website if you are interested in more details.

As the website explains, the idea of collecting donations in small offering boxes goes back to the early 1800s, when women formed "mite' or "cent' societies to raise money to support church projects and missionary work. We used to use "mite boxes" to save our donations during the month of November as we focused on what we were thankful for and in gratitude for God's blessings. Now we use envelopes for this purpose and put in change or whatever we can during the month as the widow in Luke 21:1-4 did.

We will be passing out envelopes to women after church on **Nov. 1, 8, and 15.** Then on **Sunday, Nov. 22**, we ask women to return their envelopes with their donations, and we will collect those during the church service. You may also return your envelopes to the offering plate or the church office before Nov. 22 if you will not be at church that day. The Thankoffering allows us to join together to support programs to effect change in our wider community and world.

SAVE THE DATES

WELCA CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
Saturday, December 12, 10AM-NOON
GSLC Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to join us for a program celebrating Christmas traditions and music along with a brief WELCA meeting and we hope you will bring family and friends as well. We are inviting the women of Grace, St. Matthew's and St. Andrew's to join us and will once again have a delicious buffet provided by Piato Café. **Cost will be $24 for adults and $12 for children over 2.**

Please contact Traci in the church office if you will be needing childcare. **We will be selling tickets after our Sunday services on November 21, 28, and December 6. If you are unable to get your tickets at church or have any questions, please contact Laurie Johnson, mathlaurie.10@gmail.com or Lois McConomy, mcconomy.lois@gmail.com.**

SIGN-UP FOR WELCA 80 AND OVER CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING

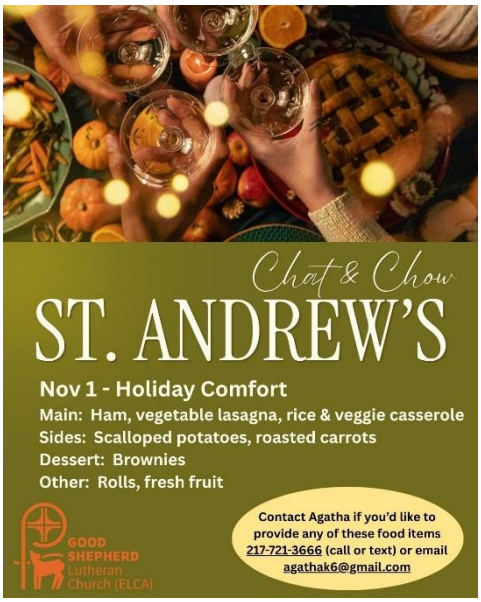
WELCA has a tradition of providing a tin filled with homemade cookies to our senior (80 and over) members during December. We're requesting 2 or 3 dozen cookies that do not need to be refrigerated from members that enjoy baking to contribute to this tradition. **There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or you can sign-up using this online link:**

https://gslc.breezechms.com/form/035d3b

Leave your labeled cookies in the church kitchen by Tuesday, December 15 at 9:30AM.

All are welcome to help at 9:30AM on Tuesday, December 15 in the Fellowship Hall when we will fill the cookie tins. Join us for our women's Bible study immediately following cookie packing and then help deliver the cookies! Questions, contact Beth Followell.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



MEALS FOR ST. ANDREW'S

If you are interested in bringing something to complement the menu, please let Agatha know so we can avoid duplicates.

Call or text: 217-721-3666
Email: agathak6@gmail.com

Thank you for helping make this meal a success! We appreciate your generosity and support.

Can't take it to St. Andrew's? Please drop off all items at Good Shepherd by 4:00pm on Sunday, November 1. If you'd like to have dinner with the members of St. Andrew's and stay for service, please bring your items to St. Andrew's by 5:30 pm.

We strive to offer at least one vegetarian and one dairy-free option at every meal. Please let Agatha know if your contribution meets either of these dietary needs so we can label it appropriately.

Our theme for the December 6 Meal for St. Andrew's:
Soup & Sandwich Night

Soup	**Vegetable soup, 3-bean chili**
Sandwich	**Sliced deli meats, sliced veggies**
Condiments	**Hummus, lettuce, tomato, mustard, mayo, peanut butter, jelly**
Other	**Chips, fruit, cookies**

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR KIDS

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES (LSSI) MINDFUL GIVING CHRISTMAS

Good Shepherd and other local churches are partnering with LSSI again this year to help provide Christmas for 185 local Champaign & Danville foster children. Social workers are working on each child's Christmas wish list. GS has agreed to support 60 children. Look for the Christmas tree with hanging Mindful Giving Tree Tags in the church Narthex.

We may get our tags in weekly increments as they are still gathering all the lists. There may also be a few tags grouped together because the children are siblings; consider shopping with another congregation member or family with these groupings. In the past, they've had issues with one sibling getting more presents than others and LSSI is striving to eliminate that issue.

If you cannot participate with the Mindful Giving Tree Tags in the narthex but still want to participate in some way, you can scan this QR code or go to:

https://giftlist.lssi.org/campaigns/champaign-and-danville-christmas-giving/products.

Online, you can shop for a local foster child and ship directly to LSSI. All gifts with children's tags should be returned to the church by December 3rd. LSSI will take care of wrapping the gifts, but if you would like to provide a gift bag, they will gladly use it. Questions? Contact: Jenelle Keene (jent74@gmail.com), or Patty Hart (cookiedunker@comcast.net)

To donate by check: Make payable to LSSI with "Champaign/Danville Christmas Gifts" in the memo line.





FRIENDS FROM BETHLEHEM

Wartburg Theological Seminary draws students from around the world, and about one-third of students live on campus. As a residential student, I am grateful to have experienced this unique Christian community. One residential family had a big impact on me. They were the first Christian Palestinians I had met, and they were the friendliest and most hospitable students on campus.

My classmate and fellow MDiv student, Jamil, started the same year I did, and first came to America as a camp counselor in Minnesota. He was born on the same day I was, and we quickly became friends. Working with his wife, Claudine, in the food pantry and in the library was a great joy for me. Claudine discerned her own call to ministry as she witnessed women preaching in the ELCA (something that wasn't possible for her back home). Jamil recently started his internship in New York this fall. Claudine will finish her second academic year at WTS in Dubuque, Iowa. She will then reunite with Jamil and their two amazing sons for her internship there.

Jamil, Claudine, and Jamil's parents, Michael and Carmen Zoughbi, travel to churches in the USA to share their story. Their presentation is personal, informative, and inspiring. Their ancestors have been Christians living in Palestine since the beginning. It has been enlightening to hear their story and share their heartache as the situation in the Holy Land and the genocide in Gaza impact their families and so many others.

They also bring olive wood sculptures from artists in Bethlehem, who are suffering due to the lack of tourism. Michael had planned to tour the USA this year. We had hoped he could speak to Good Shepherd. Unfortunately, Michael's visa was denied.

To support them and raise awareness, we will have olive wood available at Good Shepherd. On September 18th, we screened the movie The Voice of the Hind Rajab and brought many people together for the viewing. We also sold some beautiful olive wood at this event.

The next opportunity to purchase olive wood is December 6th, when we will host our community Christmas event with caroling, bonfire, pop-up nativity, and fun Christmas crafts. Many of the olive wood pieces are Christmas-themed, including gorgeous nativity sets, some of which are music boxes. We hope you can join us in celebrating the season and support those suffering in the Holy Land.

If you can't make it to the event but would like to purchase olive wood or donate, you can contact me at vicarhanna@gslc-cu.org. – Vicar Hanna Lieber







NOVEMBER SERVING SCHEDULE

	11/1/2026	11/8/2026	11/15/2026	11/22/2026	11/29/2026
Acolyte	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Logan Young	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Andrew Todd	Levi Todd
Communion Assistants					
	Gail Block	Dan Corkery	Ash Waller	Marla Todd	Samantha Fisher
	Lois McConomy	John Todd	Becky Fisher	Carol Steinman	Jenelle Keene
			Nancy Holm		
Reader	Ash Waller	Marianne Whitacre	Joe Chamley	John Todd	June Waller
Chancel Care	Beth Followell	Tori Corkery	Amy Chamley	Tori Corkery	Beth Followell
Nursery	Nancy Noe	Amy Chamley	Lisa Young & Nancy Olson	Samantha Fisher	Marla Todd
Usher	Don Block	Nicole Paul	Eric Brucker	Dan Corkery	Joe Chamley
Flower Delivery	Lois McConomy	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Gail Block	Carol Steinman	Patty Hart
LiveStream	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann	Darrell Hoemann
Coffee/Donuts	Sally Widholm & Samantha Fisher	Don Block & Laurie Johnson	Lisa Young & Kim McFarland	Kim McFarland & Patty Hart	Patty Hart & Nancy Olson
Food Delivery	Ash & June Waller	Dean Olson & Bob Clark	Jodi Davis & Vickie Wilson	Rick & Cindy Marrs	Shelly Cekander
Food Packing	Patty Hart & Caryn Salzmann	N/A	N/A	Mary Szyszka	Carol Steinman

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer on Sunday mornings, please contact Traci in the church office at staff@gslc-cu.org to be added to our volunteer list.



Pastor	Lynette Chapman
Parish Admin. Asst.	Traci Shepherd
Treasurer	Bob Clark
Director of Music	Leon Harrell
Custodian	Dennis Lage
Bookkeeper	Dana VanDeveer Jones
Program Assistant	Katrina Widholm
Vicar	Hanna Lieber

OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Thursday 8:00AM-3:00PM
Friday 8:00AM-Noon

Deadline for Scroll is the 15th 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@gslc-cu.org. Paper copies are also available at the church.