

Shepherd's *Voice*

A Place Where Children Are Welcome

Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

A church can be an intimidating place for parents with young children. More than anything else, parents are concerned about their kids being a distraction for others. Those distractions come in a variety of forms, but definitely include kids making noise when everyone else is quiet, making a mess in the pew (crackers and cereal make crumbs easy) and children have to be taken out often. Some congregation members give the unspoken impression that their children are an unwelcome distraction.

A young pastor, on a whim, contacted one of the farmers to bring a bag of straw to the first evening Advent service. Following the offering, he invited the children to come to the narthex where they could grab a handful of straw to bring forward and place in the manger to symbolize our preparing for the coming of Christ. It seemed to be a good idea, at least in his mind. The children excitedly reached into the bag to pull out large handfuls of straw and then proceeded to skip down the aisle, dropping more straw with each step. By the time the last child made it back to the pew, the center aisle looked like the ground at a petting zoo. After the service, the young pastor braced for the angry comments, but none were shared. The members were thankful to see the children in worship and being made to feel welcome. I was that young pastor. I was thankful for how the congregation members made those kids feel welcome.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is present for young and old alike. Beginning with the name of triune God reminds us that all of God's baptized children are equal in His eyes. Together, we can confess our sins, receive absolution, hear God's Word, raises our petitions, and receive His blessing. We still have work to do in helping parents to understand that their children learn the liturgy and can participate in the service from a young age. In fact, sitting in the front pew, rather than the back pew, makes it easier for children to see and hear. However, parents will only sit up front if they feel that their family is welcome, even when the children have a bad day.

How can your congregation show parents that their children are welcome? Some congregations have bags with books and coloring pages to engage children during the service. Other congregations provide activities for children to take home and do with their parents, including devotions. Children's voices are heard in the repeated petitions of the prayer of the church, in singing familiar hymns and praying the Lord's Prayer. May God bless our congregations so that they can be places where children are always welcome!

Prayer – Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have blessed us with the joy and care of children. Give us calm strength and patient wisdom, that as they grow in years, we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Fraternally in Christ,

R. Lee Hagan

Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - LCMS February 2024

February Church Events

- 2.6 Elders Meeting 7 pm
- 2.7 Adult Bible Study 10 am
- 2.7 ZOOM Prayer Group 9 pm
- 2.8 Heritage Hall 2 pm
- 2.10 Sweetheart Dinner 5-7 pm w/dancing
- 2.12 LWML 1 pm
- 2.14 Adult Bible Study 10 am
- 2.14 ASH Wednesday 7 pm
- 2.14 ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm
- 2.21 Adult Bible Study 10 am
- 2.21 Worship Committee 4 pm
- 2.21 Lenten Service 7 pm
- 2.21 ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm
- 2.28 Adult Bible Study 10 am
- 2.28 Lenten Service 7 pm
- 2.28 ZOOM Prayer Group 8 pm

Sunday Events

Prayer Group: 8:30-9:00 a.m. (meets in the Sanctuary)
Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. led by Pastor Lanning "
Worship: 10:00 a.m.
After service Bible Study (led by Gary Seider)

Children's Church is offered on non-communion Sundays, during the Sermon, for children age 4 through 4th grade.

PET PROJECT

Pick up will be arranged by calling when we have items ready. At this time, they will no longer be accepting pill bottles. Please bring in your clean empty cans and clean dry plastic milk jugs or other plastic jugs that have handles.

Please make sure your jugs are clean and dry inside.

Shepherd Supply

Offering free household supplies to those in need.
Open Saturday 9-12 & Wednesdays by appointment only
Contact Donna Hoek – (573) 682-7235



Our LAMP team will once again be selling Shakespeare's Pizza to fund their summer mission trip. If you'd like to help sell, see Hannah Lanning for an order form. If you'd like to purchase, please place your orders by March 15."

"Is God calling you to join Him in the work He is doing in Northern Canada? Come hear more about LAMP ministry and the upcoming summer trip to Northern Canada. Informational night will be on Tuesday, February 27 at 7pm at Good Shepherd. The tentative dates for the trip are July 24-August 5 (waiting for confirmation from the towns we visit). If you cannot attend the meeting but are interested, please reach out to Hannah Lanning, 314-566-9434.

A House of Prayer for All Nations

*And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.*

Isaiah 56:6-7

Throughout Isaiah's prophecy, the Lord assures His people that the promised Messiah would come to be a source of hope and salvation for the nations. In Revelation, John beholds an angel "with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people." (14:6) The great multitude of heaven that he sees in his vision are drawn from every nation. The season of Epiphany emphasizes the universality of God's grace for all people.

While the roots of our church body are among German immigrants, we also see how the eternal Gospel has been proclaimed among the nations throughout history. The first Chinese mission in Missouri began in St. Louis in 1874. The first service for the deaf was held in Missouri in 1894. Today, the Gospel is proclaimed in a dozen different languages every weekend. African immigrants gather in Kansas City and St. Louis. There are two Spanish speaking congregations on the West side of the state. Currently, Hispanics are gathering for worship with our Chinese congregation in suburban St. Louis. In campus ministries and in congregations, people gather for prayer from across the globe. God's promise through Isaiah the prophet is being fulfilled today.

Our Epiphany prayer is that Jesus Christ would be revealed to people from every nation, tribe, and language. May our congregations be houses of prayer for everyone in our communities. Lastly, we pray that God would bless the work of our missionaries across the globe as they proclaim the Gospel in many different languages and the work of our congregations here in Missouri in reaching all peoples with the eternal Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Prayer – Almighty and gracious God, You want all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people that Your Church may spread the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Fraternally in Christ,

Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 8:30 am Prayer Service 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion After Worship Bible Study	5	6 Elders Meeting 7 pm	7 Adult Bible Study at 10:00 am ZOOM Prayer Group at 9:00 pm	8 2:00pm Heritage Hall	9	10 Sweetheart Dinner 5-7 pm w/dancing
11 8:30 am Prayer Service 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Service After Worship Bible Study	12 Women's Guild 1 pm	13 Ministerial Alliance noon	14 Adult Bible Study at 10:00am Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm ZOOM Prayer Group at 8:00 pm	15	16	17
18 8:30 am Prayer Service 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion After Worship Bible Study	19	20	21 Adult Bible Study at 10:00am Worship Committee 5:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service 7 pm ZOOM Prayer Group at 8:00 pm	22	23	24
25 8:30 am Prayer Service 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship Service After Worship Bible Study	26	27	28 Adult Bible Study at 10:00am Midweek Lenten Service 7 pm ZOOM Prayer Group at 8:00 pm	29		



February Birthdays

Sherry Morse	2.6
Travis Banks	2.13
Randall Simmons	2.25
James Gesling	2.26

February Anniversaries

No February Anniversaries





**LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES**
www.lhm.org

February 4

"Nature Abhors a Vacuum" Ephesians 4:32 What fills the heart that has no room to forgive?

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

February 11

"What is Evangelism?" Mark 9:7-8 How do you encourage someone to receive the gift God has for them? That's what evangelism is all about.

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

February 18

"Redeeming DIY" Mark 1:12-13

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

February 25

"When Winning Is Losing" Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31. Romans 5:1-11, Mark 8:8-27

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

Broadcasting

Columbia, MO

KMCV 100.9 FM Sunday Mornings at 8:00am

Moberly, MO

KWIX 92.5 FM Sunday Afternoons at 1:30pm

February Calendar

February 4: Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
Text: Mark 1:29-39

February 11: The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Text: Mark 9:2-93

February 14: Ash Wednesday
Text: Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

February 18: First Sunday in Lent
Text: Mark 1:9-15

February 25: Second Sunday in Lent
Text: Mark 8:27-38

Serving The Lord

Officiant: Pastor James Lanning

Board of Elders

Randy Simmons (573) 808-1497
Curt Nadler (573) 682-4541
Jeff Jaeger (573) 682-0902

Board of Trustees

Aaron Seider (573) 296-0429
Henry Rainey (573) 823-9777
Brenda Moss (573) 682-7117

Katie Hoek (573) 933-0515
hoek.katelyn@gmail.com

Church Fellowship Hall and Church ballfield scheduling & maintenance

Be sure to check "Church Updates" for the latest church news and prayer requests, as well as serving and giving opportunities at Good Shepherd. Sign up and register at www.churchupdates.org

CONGRATULATIONS

Tillie Sue Sharp was born Jan. 2. Parents are MaKayla and Dalton Sharp of Nevada, MO. Mother and baby are both healthy and happy. Tillie has a big brother, Everett, at home and Uncle Danny and grandparents Starr and Curt Nadler here at Good Shepherd.

FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE

December 31

Attendance 54
 Current \$ 1,911.00
 Building \$180.00

Total \$ 2,091.00

January 7

Attendance 56
 Current \$ 1,702.00
 Building \$200.00

Total \$1,902.00

January 14

Attendance 28
 Current \$ 850.00
 Building \$50.00

Total \$900.00

January 21

Attendance 45
 Current \$ 1,402.00
 Building \$350.00

Total \$ 1,752 .00

January 28

Attendance Reported in March
 Current \$.00
 Building \$.00

Total \$.00

Current

10% of our current offerings are sent to Missouri District for missions. The remaining 90% is used for GSLC budget expenses.

Building

100% of money designated for building stays in our congregation for budget expenses.

Other December/January Deposits

12/31/2023	Advent	\$ 20.00
12/31/2023	Lutheran Witness	\$ 21.00
12/31/2023	Senior Youth	\$ 50.00
12/31/2023	GuideOne Water Claim	\$6,104.54
01/07/2024	Shared Ministry	\$1,250.00
01/07/2024	Lutheran Witness	\$ 41.65
01/14/2024	Partnership Grant	\$ 750.00
01/14/2024	Facility Use (VB & AA)	\$ 540.00
01/21/2024	Lutheran Witness	\$ 20.00

Offering envelopes - please use your envelopes for your church giving as much as possible. It makes things much easier for our financial secretary when counting and recording member information. If you need envelopes just let Tracy know and she can get you some. Thank you

Thank You!!!

Just wanted to pass along a quick note saying “thank you” for being so welcoming! My wife and I attended GSLC for the first time earlier this month and we both loved our experience. We plan to attend every Sunday we have off work! We’re both in emergency services, so our schedules are wacky. We’re in a stretch now of working several consecutive Sundays. We look forward to having a Sunday off and continuing to attend your wonderful church.

Respectfully,
 Gentry & Bonnie Pemberton
 124 S Jefferson St
 Centralia

FYI – Gentry is a highway patrolman; Bonnie is a flight medic. Let’s pray for this young couple as they work in situations that can be dangerous.

Our family owes a huge debt of gratitude to the entire congregation at Good Shepherd. Thank you for rallying around us and lifting us up in one of our lowest moments. We feel so incredibly blessed to be safe and surrounded by such a warm and caring church family. The meals, desserts, toys, blankets, coats, clothes, and other various items have brought us so much comfort. Thank you. We can never repay you all, but promise to pay it forward any chance we get. With sincere gratitude,
 Aaron, Betsy, Jacob, Leah & Anna Cochran

CAMPUS LUTHERAN
And the Fellowship Ministry Team
IS PROUD TO PRESENT.....

The Someteenth (15th? 16th?) Sort of Annual Talent and Hobby Show



Friday March
6:00 pm



15th

Perform on stage, display your
craft, share your baking talent, or just sit
and enjoy the fun.

See Cindy Craig to put your act on the program
573-999-4033 cindycraig65@yahoo.com



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Devin Loeffler - pregnant and recovering from in vitro surgery on her baby; **Andrea Kreder** – expecting twins; **Verda Adkisson; Mark Blanton** – Betsy Cochran’s cousin – waiting for liver transplant; **Riley Jensen**, Jon Hoek’s great niece – having serious medical issues; **Diane Hollis** – mother of Kristin Walters; **Kim Decker** – health issues; **Susan Ross; Ed & Ernestine Ramsey; Bill & Judy Mahieu; Kyle Lutz** – recovering from kidney/pancreas transplant; **Bonnie Berthelsen; Arland Stemme** - mother of Alane Gronefeld; **Mark Ramsey; Calvin Stemme** – treatment for cancer; **Doreen Loeffler** – cancer treatments; **Julia Rainey; Jane St. John; Linda Benoit; Dennis & Jackie Nadler; Don Crump** – uncle of Jacki Stelzer; **Susan Harris; Wayne Nolan** – stepfather of Jeff Jaeger; **Michelle Smith** – daughter of Jane St John; **Arla Benskin** – daughter of Mary Brechler.

Missionaries - Pastor Tim Schulte and his wife Erin

Community Prayers: Father Mike Coleman; Tracy Ross; Evie Ross – infant needs heart transplant; **Dylan Dick** -ongoing health issues following sepsis.

ARMED FORCES

Brandon and Jesse Lowery, U.S. Navy – brothers of Rachel Rojas; **Donevin Leonard, U.S. Marine Corps** – grandson of Russell & Jacki Stelzer; **Rafe Mechlin, U.S. Marine Corps** – husband of Abby Mechlin, brother to Brittany Gorczyca and Shelby Banks; **Chris Chism, U.S. Navy** – son of Vickie & Eric Chism; grandson of Barbara Fischer; **Brittany Macklin** – great-niece of Ernestine Ramsey; **Zachary Warden** – grandson of Betty Warden; Community: **Ray Finlay, U.S. Army.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed!!!

Sweetheart Dinner committee would accept volunteers to slice briskets, prepare salads, donate desserts or decorate and setup the room. They may contact Ann or Alane for more information on how they can help.

Save the date!!!!

Sweetheart Dinner and Dance February 10th – dinner served from **5:00-7:00** - \$20/person – child’s plate is \$10.
Reservation deadline is February 5th.

Menu is brisket with potato, salad, vegetable, bread and dessert

Dinner and Dancing at any time that evening (during the meal and for a reasonable amount of time after 7 pm)

Reservations Required but payment will be just be collected at the door.

Reservations can be made by calling 573-489-2816.



NERF & NACHOS!
Family Fun Night
Saturday, March 9
5:00 PM
GSLC Fellowship Hall

*We will supply the ammo,
bring your own Nerf guns and eye protection.

Free will offering will be accepted for future Sunday School activities.



Our E2 Conferences are right around the corner! These conferences are located where your congregation could easily travel for the day. Find a location near you and register online at mo.lcms.org/e2-conference-equip-encourage

Sessions provide support and training for your congregation and ministries. All are invited to attend (lay people and church workers). The conferences are free to participate, so bring a group! There are many ministry ideas and resources presented, and best shared amongst many of your church leaders.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with the event running from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.. Light refreshments and coffee will be provided. Register online at the link above and let us know you're coming.

Have you identified a need in our community (or surrounding area) that we could provide help with?
We have time to identify a need to participate in this.

Quarterlife News

"Quarterlife finished a study on *Stories of Hope from the Bible* by Pastor Lanning and are currently working through Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christmas*.

We will start *The Being Challenge* on February 19th.

Mark your calendars for a special fellowship night on February 2nd. A member of Quarterlife is making Hot Pot!

Service Opportunity! Come help serve dinner at Good Shepherd's Sweetheart dinner on Saturday, February 10th.

Quarterlife is a group of young adults between Campus Lutheran and Good Shepherd Lutheran. We meet weekly for Bible Study on Monday nights from 6-7pm at Campus Lutheran and have many fellowship and service activities throughout the year."

MISSOURI DISTRICT TO Shine! FOR FOURTH TIME



For the fourth consecutive year, the Missouri District is pleased to host a statewide servant event. Based on Matthew 5:16 and aptly named *SHINE!*, the event runs April 12-21, 2024.

SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS YEARS, THE CONCEPT IS SIMPLE:

FORM A TEAM	IDENTIFY A NEED	REGISTER ONLINE	SERVE THIS APRIL
Groups of all sizes and skill sets are welcome.	Who needs an extra hand in your community?	Order t-shirts and describe your event: mo.lcms.org/shine	Show love to your neighbors and be a witness for Jesus.

We're once again blessed to have a list of sponsors who are helping to provide matching t-shirts for those who are "shining." In 2024, these shirts will be red! (Please note: The cutoff date for ordering t-shirts will be Tuesday, March 12.)

"To God be all the glory for such an opportunity as *SHINE!*" says Josh Swartz, Director of Schools for the Missouri District. "We do not do this for the accolades or the pats on the back. We engage in outreach events like *SHINE!* because it matters. It matters, to those we serve, and to the next generation we are raising up."

Since its inaugural year in 2021 with more than 5,000 participants, *SHINE!* went on to almost double that in 2023 with more than 10,000 volunteers. Last year, the Missouri District was joined by the Northern Illinois District. They'll be back in April...and new to the group is the Nebraska District and an energetic congregation from Virginia.

"I remember my first visit to the Missouri District and learning about the *SHINE!* servant events," says Swartz. "I was so astounded to learn that a District took such an active and bold role in firing up the masses to go out and impact the community, and to learn just how fired up the masses were."

Indeed, the Missouri District is as fired up as it has ever been about serving in April and looks forward to seeing you all in action this spring. Shine on, Missouri!



Pastor James Lanning

(512) 968-4587, Email: pastorlanning@goodshepherdcentralia.org

Church Office- Catherine Simmons 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., M, T; 8:30-2:30 W

(573) 682-3941

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