

## *Finding Joy*

Sermon Series – April 2024

Based on Philippians

Philippians is often seen as one of the most joyful books in the Bible. It's a letter written by the Apostle Paul to a congregation he started in Philippi. Like all congregations, there had been challenges along the way, but also plenty of things for which to rejoice and give thanks. No doubt, we could use some of this same joy at Good Shepherd as we go through a time of transition. Join us as we dig into Philippians and hopefully find joy as we go.

Note that we will cover one chapter per week. We won't be able to cover all the details, but the verses listed below will be the focus for that week.

April 7 & 10 – Phil. 1:12-26 – *Joy Can sometimes Be Hard to Find*

April 14 & 17 – Phil. 2:1-18 – *The Deep-Down Joy of Imitating Christ*

April 21 & 24 – Phil. 3:1-21 – *Joy Comes in Pressing on Toward the Goal*

April 28 – May 1 – Phil. 4:1-20 – *The Joy of Working Out our Differences*

## MOTHER'S DAY PIE SALE

\$15 each --- PRE ORDERS ONLY ---

**CHERRY      APPLE      PEACH      BLUEBERRY**

Order fresh pies April 17- MAY 8<sup>th</sup>

Preorder @ 507-525-1920 TEXT, CALL or VOICEMAIL

Leave your Name, Phone# and order!

**PAY @ PICK UP: SATURDAY MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> 11AM-4PM**

LOCATION: GOOD SHEPHERD CONCRETE DRIVE-THROUGH (291 1<sup>ST</sup> ST SW)

(Or pick up Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am-3:00pm at the church office)

All proceeds go to the Youth Trip to New Orleans, July 2024

Good Shepherd  
LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

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



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## **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Wednesday Worship 6:15 pm

Holy Communion 1st and 3rd weeks

Pastor Vern Christopherson - pas-  
torgslc@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

Live Stream: https://  
goodshepherdwells.online.church/

April 2024

Vol. 64 No. 04

**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!**

### **Lutheran Social Service Man-Fair Region Auxiliary**

Good Shepherd will host the Spring Meeting of the Lutheran Social Service Man-Fair Region Auxiliary on April 23rd at 1:30 pm in the Church Social Hall. Local churches host these gatherings twice a year in the region. A representative from one of the many services provided by LSS does a presentation and shares the needs of that program. This months featured program is about Portland House with ingathering for LifeHaven & quilts for Portland House.

Portland House is a home for men who have served time in prison and are ready to begin new lives. LifeHaven provides short-term transitional housing for young women, ages 16 and 17 and their children, who are experiencing homelessness.

The supplies you can donate for the Mothers and Children are everyday sundries along with twin sheet sets, house socks or slippers, pajamas and robes. Diapers are always welcome along with baby wipes, shampoo, lotion and other supplies. **See the bulletin board for the full supply list.** A laundry basket filled with supplies is a very welcome donation.

work on updating the Constitution & Personnel Manual. They will work on updating the Ministry Teams as well. Good Shepherd will begin sending out quarterly statements of individual giving.

#### **Old Business:**

Consent Agenda. No items from the Consent agenda needed to be reviewed. Constitution Committee of Pat, Brian, Bill & Nancy will begin working on the Personnel Manual. Earned Sick & Safe Time reviewed. This is a new law in the state of MN that employees that work 80 hours in a year are entitled to one hour of sick & safe time for every 30 hours worked. This law became effective January 1, 2024 & employees of Good Shepherd will be eligible. Employee hours will be tracked according to MN State law.

#### **Generative Work – What might we do?**

Church Council Retreat has been set for June 23, 2024 at 11 AM. Emily Carson, Director for Evangelical Mission & Assistant to the Bishop of the SEMN Synod will conduct the retreat.

Communications Survey. It was discussed as to whether The Voice was an effective tool for communication for Good Shepherd. Discussion was held regarding a weekly email news concept & the cost. This was tabled for a later date.

#### **New Business:**

1. Property & Management Committee reports that there are stones falling off the church building near the Bell Tower – this will need tuck pointing. Discussion is being held as to how to proceed with repair.

2.Pastor Vern’s contract has been signed by the Synod & returned.

Next meeting will be April 18, 2024 at 5:30 PM Lindsey will lead devotions. Motion made to adjourn by Bill. Second by Sue. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Turn order form into the offering basket or baskets at both entrances:

#### **Mother’s Day Pie Sale order form:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE#: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of **fresh** pies:

Cherry \_\_\_\_\_ Apple \_\_\_\_\_ Blueberry \_\_\_\_\_ Peach \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of fresh pies \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for supporting our Youth!*

**Pay at pickup Saturday MAY 11<sup>th</sup> 11am-4pm-Good Shepherd drive through.**

**Good Shepherd Church Council met Thursday, March 21, 2024.** Those in attendance were Brian Ehlert, Gary Hagen, Bill Groskreutz, Lindsey Shultz, Sara Lutteke, Sue Vee, and Pastor Vern. Partial attendance by Lauryne Stern & Jackie Huper. Absent were Pat Ojanen & Nancy Bruckhoff. .President Brian called the meeting to order. Devotions were led by Bill Groskreutz.

Motion made by Sue to approve the agenda. Second by Gary. Motion carried. Motion made by Bill to accept the consent agenda (Secretary's Report, Ministry Team Reports, Financial Report, President's Report & Pastor's Report). Second by Sue. Motion carried. **Strategic Work- What are we doing?**

1. Lauryne Stern gave an update on the upcoming youth trip to New Orleans. The trip is scheduled for July 17-20, 2024. There are 10 students and 3 chaperones from our congregation attending. Chaperones are Jessie Willner, Kirstyn Wegner & Cody Winstead. The group will fly out of Des Moines, Iowa. Future fundraisers are scheduled. Much of the money has already been secured thru various fundraisers & the group will use the interest from the G. Groskreutz CD as they need it.

2. Update on our Financial Picture given by Jackie Huper. Income was about average for the month of February when compared to amounts in 2022 & 2023. Expenses for February were very similar to 2022 & higher by \$3,000 in 2023. Pastor Vern started to receive his normal salary the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of February. However, we still have some back pay for Pastor Vern to catch up on from January & February that will show in the budget for March. \$10,000 has been borrowed from operating savings in March to pay the bills. Motion made by Bill, second by Sue to allow Jackie to move monies from the restricted account (Furnace Repair/Replace) to pay the Ron's Plumbing bill of \$2,719.99 that was not part of the maintenance contract. Motion carried. Council agreed to allow Jackie to move monies at her discretion to pay the bills. Preliminary Report – Alice Yainske Trust. \$50,000 has been received from the Estate of Alice Yainske. Motion made by Sara to place this money in a 9-month CD to earn interest till needed. Second by Sue. Motion carried.

3. Council Covenant. Zumbro Lutheran Church Council Covenant read & reviewed. Motion made to adopt this covenant by Bill. Second by Brian. Motion carried. All council members will sign this covenant annually & will be placed in the personnel manual. A copy of this covenant will be printed in The Voice and addressed with the congregation in the coming months.

4. Committees at Good Shepherd (Property & Management, Worship & Music, Youth & Education, Outreach & Fellowship, Technology, Time, Talent & Treasures, & Global Missions). How will the Council relate to them? Pat, Brian, Nancy & Bill have agreed to

## A Season of Gratitude and Joy

We're focusing on Paul's letter to the Philippians during worship in April. Paul's gratitude and joy spills out throughout his letter. It's often considered his most positive epistle.

When you consider the sticky situation Paul is in, that's surprising. Paul is the founding pastor of the house church in Philippi. He's writing a letter to be read aloud in worship. He's writing it from a jail cell. We're not exactly sure why he's there, but he is. Paul's convictions sometimes bumped up against local culture and customs.

"I want you to know," Paul assures them, "that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel." Paul goes on, "It has become known throughout the whole imperial guard that my imprisonment is for Christ" (1:12-13). From the beginning of his letter, Paul is giving thanks for his circumstances and, in the process, doing what he can to encourage the little house church in Philippi. Clearly, Paul sees gratitude as key in building up the faith of those new believers.

As we go through April, I have two challenges for you: read and re-read Philippians several times during the month. It's a short and edifying letter. And spend some extra time in prayer, doing your best to give thanks for whatever circumstances you're in.

And here's my second challenge: find a notebook and, at the end of the day, jot down at least three things you were grateful for that day. It's amazing how such gratitude journals can lift our spirits, and thus increase our emotional and spiritual well-being. We might not be prisoners for Christ like Paul was, but we can all benefit from a season of gratitude for the good gifts that come our way.

Paul exhorts his readers near the end of his letter: "Do not worry 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" (4:6-7). To that I say, what a way to spend a month!





## President Report March 2024

At our last meeting, Council members took the time to get to know one another, which is a good thing as we will be spending many more hours in the future together. There are many things that this council will need to attend to. One of them is a council covenant for our service to this church. Another is going over constitution items and other updates to help move this congregation forward this coming year. One of my goals is to meet & visit with members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, old and new. We've had quite the mild winter. I sure hope it doesn't turn into a wild spring!

Take care & God Bless!!

Brian Ehlert

## Worship and Music Ministry Team Minutes

March 20, 2024

Present: Pastor Vern, Andrea, Sandi, Lynne, JoAnn, Dynette

1. Review of Easter week schedule
2. Pastor Vern will find supply pastors for when he needs to be gone
3. Name tags will be worn beginning in April
4. Kids will now have the opportunity to choose a job to help with worship; job tags will be on a coat rack in the middle of the church aisle for them to choose.
5. A few responses have been received with the "life at GSLC" notes in the bulletin
6. The committee agreed to using the contemporary version of the Lord's Prayer.
7. We will begin using a processional cross for Sunday services
8. Pastor Vern will begin using "Speak It Plain" for Wed services
9. Grape juice will now be poured from a ceramic chalice along with wine.
10. We will find people to assist with communion for Maundy Thursday

**Next meeting date: 9:30 on Wed April 10th.**



Last night of Education! April 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

Bingo Bash- Awards, Prizes & Ice cream. All kids are welcome.  
(Meet in the Music Room)

Confirmation Banquet- Viewing of Scripture boards. 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders, mentors, and families!

## Fellowship & Outreach Committee

The fellowship/outreach team met on Wednesday, March 20 with the following members present: Sue Vee, Carol Jacobson, Jeannette Groskreutz, Joanne Korman, Linda Hagen and Pastor Vern.

1. Membership in Good Shepherd was the first topic to discuss. Pastor Vern will be contacting people who have been referred to us as possible new members. We have secured shepherds for some of them but will continue to work on that task. Looking ahead we hope to have a new member Sunday in May.
2. Our next topic of discussion was a Tractor Blessing on Sunday, April 14. We will get information in the bulletin and the Voice about this event. We will contact neighbors to the church to inform them of this event. We also need to contact the city about blocking off an area by the church to park the tractors. The tractor blessing will take place after the 9:30 church service, and there will be a "farmer's breakfast" after that where everyone is invited. We will make egg bakes at the church the night before, and each of us on the committee will make muffins. Coffee, milk and juice will be served.
3. Pastor Vern shared a sample of a weekly e-mail letter as a possible communication tool from our church.
4. We will send a thank you to Lauryn Stern and Kent Stern. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 3 at 4:00.



**What:** Community Salad Luncheon

**When:** Saturday, April 27, 11-1:00pm

**Where:** Good Shepherd Social Hall

**Who:** Everyone is invited, spread the word!

**Why:** Free Will Donation. Proceeds for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 2024

**What else?** Salads, garlic toast, Coffee, & Lemonade. Door Prizes too!

## 2024 Good Shepherd Financials

INCOME	VS.	EXPENSE
\$16,033	JAN	\$30,255
\$10,230	FEB	\$21,710

### Financial Info as of Jan 31, 2024

YTD Total Income	\$26,263.00
TYD Total Expense	\$51,935.00
YTD Net Transfers	\$ 0.00
Difference	-\$25,671.50
YTD Oper. Savings Used	\$0.00
YTD Oper. Savings Paid Back	\$0.00

I can do all  
things through  
Him that  
strengthens  
me!  
Philippians 4:13

## Coming Attractions.....

1. Worship and Music wants to try using the contemporary version of the Lord's Prayer during the season of Easter. Once the seasons ends, we'll take a poll and get some feedback from you.

2. Worship and Music is also going to use the Processional Cross during Easter as we begin worship and as we leave worship.

3. Worship and Music would like us to use nametags during the month of April. Come to worship a few minutes early, sign up on a nametag and display it openly. We might even spend some Sundays introducing ourselves to people we don't know.

3. Fellowship and Outreach is planning a Blessing of the Tractors on Sunday, April 14. We'll bless those who drive their tractors to worship, those who bring cell phone pictures of their tractors, and those who bring toy tractors. Afterward a "farmer's breakfast" will be served.



## Property and Management

March 4, 2024

Members present: Pat Ojanen, Bill Groskreutz Jr., Pastor Vern, Kathy Ayers, John Vee Dan Treptow and Kent Stern

1. The heating issue we had with the basement classrooms has been repaired
2. We recently had a problem with the fire proof file cabinet in the office, the lock was stuck and couldn't be opened. Total Glass and Lock from Albert Lea came and got it fixed.
3. Updating the bell tower repair, we've gotten one estimate to do the work and have contacted another company, this could be a costly repair to make and really needs to be tended to since it will only get worse.
4. Mike Schrader has been contacted about reseeding the front lawn of the parsonage after it had to be dug up to repair the sewer line. We are considering putting in a new sidewalk from the front steps of the parsonage just to the driveway, the old sidewalk was also dug up for the sewer repair.
5. Pat brought up the idea of having the elevator entrance door open during office hours as well as Wed. nights and Sun. mornings. We used to have this door open during these times but then covid hit and messed that up. It has been noticed that people occasionally come to that door and can't

## Youth and Education Minutes March 5, 2024

Present: Pastor Vern, Kim Jacobson, Nancy Bruckoff, Lauryne Stern.

### Opening Prayer

1. (Note that Y&E will be meeting every first Tuesday of the month at 5pm.)  
The Y&E team took the opportunity to spend time on reviewing job description of a Youth and Sunday School coordinator under the title of Children, Youth and Family Coordinator.
2. Reviewed our mission statement.
3. Pastor Vern shared 1<sup>st</sup> Communion activities. To be held on Maundy Thursday.

## Youth and Education Minutes Feb. 27, 2024

Present: Nancy Bruckoff, Sara Theede, Lindsey Schultz, Kim Jacobsen, Pastor Vern, Lauryne Stern.

Prayer opening.

1. Loose change has been suspended until after Easter.
2. Lauryne reported we had a good attendance for the delayed Valentine party on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>. held in the dining area. The Lions provided the bingo machine and sheets. Thank you to Brad Heggen, Tom Hansen and Gavin Gonzalez. Prizes provided by Youth and Ed. Also thank you to Kim and Bobbie and teachers who assisted students for helping. Sundaes were served after bingo. Party held after church from 7-7:45 pm.
3. Motion by Nancy to reimburse Lauryne for the bingo prizes in the amount of \$30.93. Seconded by Lindsey. Approved.
4. Discussion on First Communion date. Pastor Vern asked to send out letters to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students' parents to acquire their availability for First Communion instruction and Communion. Maundy Thursday has been the tradition for first Communion at Good Shepherd. USC will not have school on Thursday and Friday of that week. In the letter they will also decide what they would like to be etched on their Communion glasses. Choices would be the Communion date, their birthday or their baptism date.
5. Report by Kim on the progress of the Confirmation class. It has received positive input. Kim stated that the students are beginning to work on their projects for Confirmation. All students have mentors.
6. Kim suggested that we serve a dessert with students, mentors and parents prior to their Confirmation. Also, it will give them the opportunity to showcase their final projects. Date is pending until a later date.
7. Mission statement for Youth and Ed will be edited.
8. Assembly of God has contacted us and are moving forward with a Community VBS. We will need a volunteer to attend meetings and planning prior to VBS and assist them or hold our own VBS. Community VBS was very successful in 2023.
9. Reviewed the preschool/kindergarten material.
10. Discussion about Palm Sunday and we are excited that the students will be participating in the procession with Palm leaves and drums.

## Philippians Word Search Puzzle

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R Y E B U N P A R T N E R S H I P S
F I L L I T U P S N A P B C D P Y O
J O G E B R N E W A W A R E S P T S
E M R H E A H E A V E N L Y R I I U
S E E W T O R E M R E V E A N L L T
U G M R A E T O N E P R I Z E I I I
S P I R I R O U N S G S A V E H M D
C R N T S E D U I O E A R W B P U O
H O D C A A Y F S W H V R E A R H R
R C E U V L E P O N L E K U Y A E H
I L R D I X E R N C E D L Z O A A P
S A Z N O L T Z G L U S Q U A C R A
T I M O T H Y A U S R S S V T E N P
S M E C Y E S N E H T G N E R T S E
  
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CONDUCT  
ENCOURAGEMENT  
EPAPHRODITUS  
FORWARD FOCUS  
GOSPEL

HEAVENLY  
HONORABLE  
HUMILITY  
JESUS CHRIST  
PARTNERSHIP

PAUL  
PHILIPPI  
PRAISEWORTHY  
PRAYER  
PROCLAIM

REMINDER  
RIGHTEOUSNESS  
SERVANT  
STRENGTHEN  
TIMOTHY





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Russell Elmer	2 Joyce Larson Madalyn Hart	3 David Groskreutz	4 Caden Niebuhr Chloe Cummings Emma Beyer Sandra Tatge	5 Aaron Schaper	6 Erik Melby
7 Laura Foley	8 Dorothy Christenson Tyler Linde	9 Gerry Baynard Melva Peterson	10 Ava Theede Doris Wood Linda Stern	11 Rollie Warmka	12 Noah Todd	13 Bunny Elmore Grace Weyhrauch Nancy Kruger
14	15	16 Avery Willner-Manges Elaine Sellner Nathaniel Cummings	17 William Groskreutz	18 Heather Warmka Justin Possin	19 Kristin Vogelsang	20 Bobbie Schultze Jordan Buendorf
21 Adyson Warmka Hayley Olson	22 Nash Warmka	23	24 Justin Melby Scott Linde	25 Derick Schultz Michael Schrader Steven Huper Tanya Christensen	26	27 Jacob Schultze James Jacobsen
28	29 Jeff Amy JoAnn Ovrebo	30 William Huper				

- 11. Meeting of Youth and Education has been moved to the first Tuesday of the month @ 5pm.
- 12. Lauryne will give a briefing to the Council on the Youth Gathering trip on March 21.

**Next Meeting will be held on March 5, 5pm**

*What: Blessing of the Tractors*

*When: Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30am worship service*

*Where: Outside Good Shepherd Church*

*Bring your tractor or a picture of one, kids bring a toy tractor! Pastor Vern will say a blessing for spring planting, summer growing, and fall harvesting. Sign up to bring a tractor by April 10<sup>th</sup>. There's a form by each door or call the office (553-3513).*



*What else? FARMER'S BREAKFAST in the Social Hall to follow. It will include egg bake, muffins, juice, milk, and coffee.*

### April Wednesday Night Meal Menu


**April 3** Chicken Patties, Chicken ala King, Potatoes, Peas, Ice Cream cups

**April 10** Swedish Meatballs, Spaghetti Hotdish, Potatoes, Green Beans, Cookies

**April 17** Goulash, Lettuce Salad, Corn, Cupcakes  
Kids: Hot Dogs & French Fries

**April 24** Sloppy Joes, Beans, Chips, Pumpkin Bars  
Kids: Chicken Nuggets, Corn Dogs, Chips

# APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Office Closed	<b>2</b> 5pm Property & Management 5pm Youth & Education	<b>3</b> 3pm Caring Ministry Meeting 4pm Outreach & Fellowship 5pm Wednesday Night Meals 6:15pm Worship 7pm Wed School & Confirmation	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30 Worship 9:30am Holy Communion 9:45am Sunday School	<b>8</b> 9am Crafty Quilters	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30am Worship & Music 5pm Wednesday Night Meals 6:15pm Worship & Holy Communion 7pm Wed School & Confirmation	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:30am Tractor Blessing and Breakfast	<b>15</b> 9am Crafty Quilters	<b>16</b> Pie Sales Begin	<b>17</b> 5pm Wednesday Night Meals 6:15pm Worship 7pm Wed School & Confirmation	<b>18</b> 5:30pm Church Council	<b>19</b> Voice Articles Due	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30 Worship 9:30am Holy Communion 9:45am Sunday School (last day of SS)	<b>22</b> 9am Crafty Quilters	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:30am Shepherd's Inn Communion 5pm Wednesday Night Meals 6:15pm Worship & Holy Communion 7pm Bingo Bash 7pm Confirmation Banquet	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 11a-1p Salad Luncheon Youth Fund Raiser
<b>28</b> 9:30 Worship 9:45am Sunday School Baptism of Colton Ehlert	<b>29</b> 9am Crafty Quilters	<b>30</b>	<b>Bone Builders Monday &amp; Thursday 9:30am</b>  <b>Pie Sales end May 8th</b>			