Good Shepherd News



This month I am going to take a break from writing another article on the Augsburg Confession. The goal of going through this is to lay out for you all in layman's terms what we believe, teach, and confess as Biblical Confessional Lutherans. Last month we took up Article XVI which talked about how we as Christians interact with the secular government.

I am pausing that endeavor to bring up some tweaks and adjustments to the confirmation program here at Good Shepherd that have begun. A number of people have expressed interest in learning more about it even if they don't have confirmands in the current program. I also will be speaking to our LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) group on November 16th about those changes. If you're interested in hearing more in person about the updates to the program, please join us at 6:30 in the education wing on November 16th.

Let me start off with this question. How many confirmands over the past 10 years are connected to a Christian congregation in a significant way?

I defined this as them attending worship at least once a month, at Good Shepherd, another LC-MS congregation, or any other Christian church at all, and maintain their membership here or there. This question is what started conversations with elders, parents, and students about the steps of our former confirmation program. Currently 72% of confirmands from Good Shepherd since 2016 DO NOT have that connection to a church home.

Now there are a lot of factors that can play into the answer. We could explain why the number is the way it is over the past 10 years. We could defend or justify our reaction or questions to it. This question was never asked to downplay people's contributions in the past, put anyone down, or justify failure or success. It was simply a way to wonder together, is this what we want to keep doing? After many conversations the elders and I concluded it was not, and I put to work on making adjustments to the program.

Those adjustments came in three different areas to the confirmation program. First the educational environment. We moved away from a classroom only model focusing on book work and memorization. There is still classroom time, book work, and memorization built into the program, but now it will take place in a variety of environments: at home, at church, in the car, on the bus, in small groups and through service opportunities.

Second the age range was adjusted. Before we had a two-year program strictly 7th and 8th grade on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm. The starting year was removed and the ending year was lengthened. A student now can start at the age of 5th grade, but must be done by 10th grade. If their requirements are not completed or they do not pass evaluation by pastor and elders the student is welcome to go through Adult Confirmation classes, which typically happen one on one with Pastor.

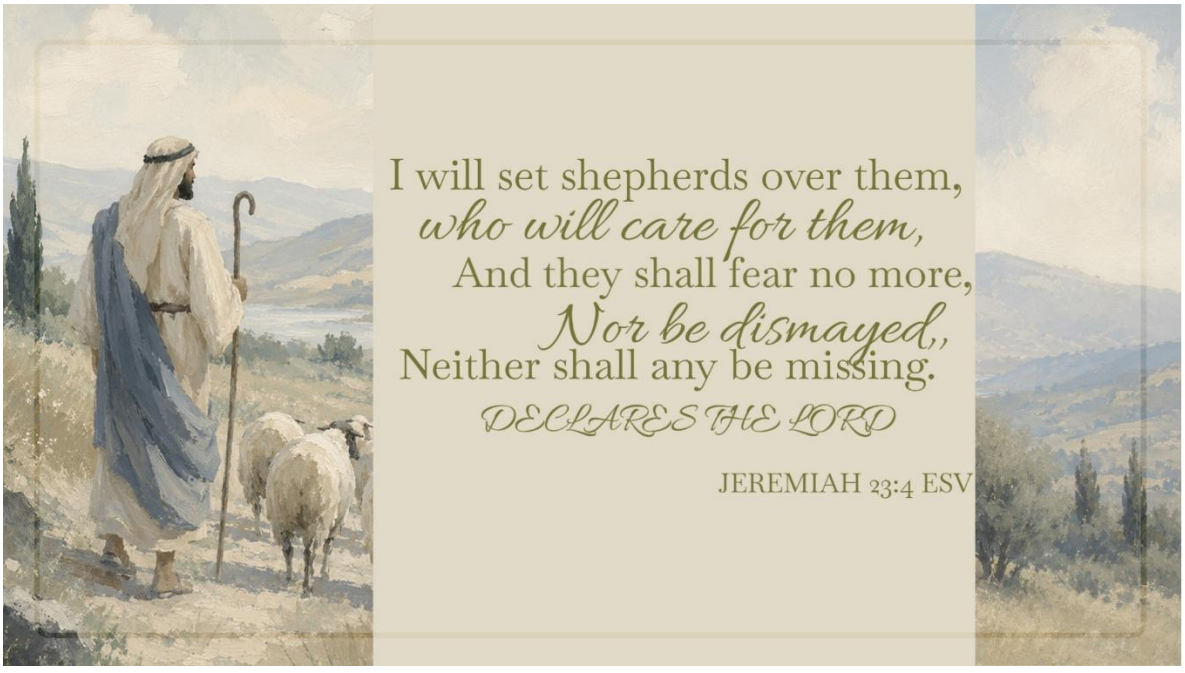
The last area that was adjusted was the evaluation process. Essentially before the confirmation program could be completed by checking boxes of attending Wednesday night classes, showing up to worship enough that no one would notice or say anything, do some sermon notes, and hope you got confirmed in two years. This did not really allow for teaching from the Catechism and Bible to be received well, and promote good growth in the faith of these beloved young believers. One thing that God has blessed most middle schoolers with at their age is their ability to know when they aren't being encouraged or cherished. Strong and healthy evaluation along with more time in different areas of life will help that. This will come through the student and parents creating a benchmark plan of what "credits" they intend to complete through their confirmation program journey.

These are general basics of the adjustments to the program that are going on. To close I want to share with you how I and the elders pray this will benefit Good Shepherd. As members of God's flock, sometimes we are keenly aware of when our fellow sheep are not around with us in worship.

Other times we experience, what psychologist Dr. Pauline Boss called "ambiguous loss". This happens when we sense part of God's flock is missing, but we aren't sure who is missing, what their names were, we fear we didn't know them that well. Sometimes we will say, "the youth" or "our young people" which hints that we are experiencing an ambiguous loss. We don't know how to name that grief. That's important because it allows us to make a clear plan of how to search out those who are missing and keeping those whom we know close to our Good Shepherd, Jesus.

I pray these changes help our confirmands, their families, our congregation, and the wider church. If you have any questions, please contact me or the elders or join us on November 16th at the LWML meeting.

Joyfully His,
Pastor Jonathan Jahnke



ELDERS CORNER

In 2006, after the tragic Amish schoolhouse shooting in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania, the Amish community responded in a way that stunned the world: they forgave. They visited the gunman's widow, prayed with her, attended the shooter's funeral, and even created a fund to support his family. Their grace didn't erase their grief — but it kept bitterness from taking root.

This kind of grace is not soft or sentimental. It is costly. It is deliberate. It is Christ-shaped. And it speaks directly to the life we are called to live as followers of Jesus.

Scripture reminds us that betrayal and hurt often come from those close to us (Psalm 41:9), and even Jesus Himself was betrayed with a kiss (Luke 22:47–48). Yet Christ responded without retaliation or resentment. He showed grace.

Most of us won't face tragedies like Nickel Mines, but we *will* face criticism, misunderstandings, and careless words.

If our Lord experienced this, we should not be surprised when we do. But Jesus also showed us how to respond: Not with retaliation. Not with resentment. But with grace. Grace does not mean pretending the hurt didn't happen. Grace does not mean ignoring sin. Grace does not mean abandoning truth.

Grace means choosing to respond in a way that reflects Christ rather than our wounded pride.

And grace in daily congregational life looks like:

- Assuming the best about one another
- Speaking gently even when we feel strongly
- Correcting with humility
- Listening before judging
- Forgiving quickly
- Carrying one another's burdens

Grace is not just something we receive from God — it is something we extend because God has first extended it to us. As we walk together as a church family, let us be people who guard one another's stories, speak life into one another's hearts, and show grace even when criticism stings. Grace is not weakness. Grace is strength under the control of the Holy Spirit.

May our congregation be known — in our homes, workplaces, and community — as people who carry the grace of Christ into every conversation, every conflict, and every criticism.

(Prepared with the aid of AI)

Your brother in Christ!

Greg

(Prepared with the aid of AI)

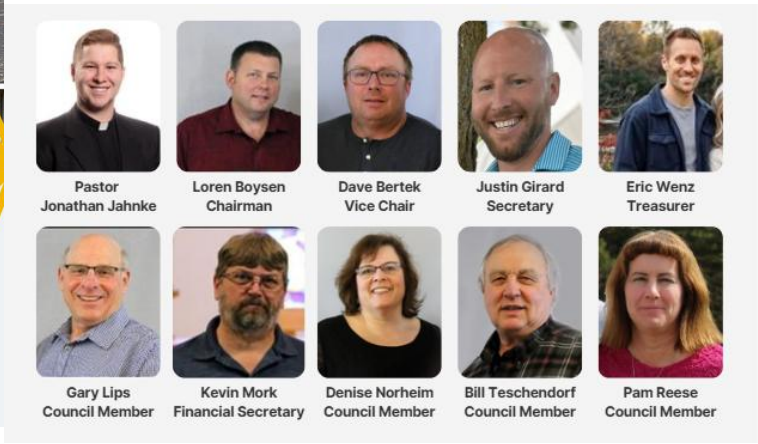
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Highlights from October executive council meeting:

1- Council is receiving and reviewing budget items for 2026
2- Working on a presentation planning for a playground installation to come before the Voters at the annual meeting.
3- Annual Voters Meeting Scheduled for December 6, 2026 @ 10:30am.
4- Executive council needs congregation members to prayerfully consider to be on the council. We will be voting for these positions *Chairman and 2 members at large* at the Annual Voters meeting in December. If interested in running talk to any council member.



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS 2026



Pastor Jahnke	goodshepherdalexpastor@gmail.com	701.306.2072
Loren Boysen	lcb@runestone.net	320.760.0199
Dave Bertek	dabertek@gmail.com	320.491.4652
Justin Girard	jgirard210@icloud.com	507-828-7830
Eric Wenz	eric.wenz372@gmail.com	952-217-9136
Gary Lips	lipsgary@gmail.com	612-597-9044
Kevin Mork	krmork327@gmail.com	320-491-0200
Denise Norheim	denisenorheim@gmail.com	320-808-4157
Bill Teschendorf	teschendorfjan@yahoo.com	320-815-3099
Pam Reese	preese553@gmail.com	320-219-3856

Yours in Christ,
Loren Boysen

TREASURE

OCTOBER 2026	FUNDS	EXPENSES
Current Month's Offerings	$30,110	
Year To Date Total Offerings	$338,863	
Thrivent Choice Dollars- YTD	$4,511	
Miscellaneous Income- YTD	$250	
LCEF Account Transfer- YTD	$	
Current Month's General Expense		$30,807
Year to Date Total Expense		$340,801
Current Month Net Less Expense		($333)
Year to Date Net Less Expense		$2,822

Reminder:

Financial & Attendance updates will be changing to monthly! If you have questions regarding Good Shepherds Finances, please reach out to Eric Wenz-Treasure @ goodshepherdalextreas@gmail.com

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Each September, our MN North District Church Worker Wives gather for a time of Bible Study, fellowship and encouragement. This year, Samantha Davis presented on “The Witness and Lives of the Woman of the Reformation".

If you are the wife of a MN North church worker and would like to hear more about this retreat in 2027, please share your email address with the District Office to be added to the contact list! Send it to Diana at: **mnndist@mnnlcms.org**

ALTAR GUILD

ALL SAINTS DAY NOVEMBER 1st

The day commemorates not only all the Martyrs but all the people of God, living and dead, who form the mystical Body of Christ. The color is white, pointing to eternity and the perfection that the saints now enjoy. The commemoration of the saints is valuable to the Christian as a way of encouraging people to examine the personal stories fs women and men to learn the richness and the potential of human life lived by the grace of God in Jesus Christ—people whose common denominator is simply that the grace of God worked mightily within them.

It has become almost universal in the United States for Christian churches of all confessions to observe the National Day of Thanksgiving, the fourth Thursday in November. On this occasion the Church thanks God for creating and preserving us and for giving us all that we need for body and soul. The color of the day is white.

Thank you, Kari for Altar Care, in October. Altar Care givers for November are Marian Brelje, Carrie Carlsrud and Colton Carlsrud.

Kay Nibbe

LIBRARY

Karen Kingsbury has written another wonderful series, the Bailey Flanagan Series. It includes Leaving, Learning, Longing and Loving. This one is a continuation of the Above the Line series. Bailey goes to Broadway to sing and dance in Hairspray. She initially had problems because she was a Christian and few others in the cast were. She eventually was given permission to have a Bible study. Because of that she led several cast members to God. She had her heart on dating Cody, her first love, but Brandon, the lead man in the Lockout movie, was pursuing her. Cody felt he was way below her. Which one will win her heart? She moved to Los Angeles when the Broadway show ended and she read for a movie. The paparazzi were around whenever she was with Brandon. She was fearful whenever they started chasing her. Los Angeles scared her and she went home to Bloomington, Indiana. She remembered what her brother said, PUSH, Pray Until Something Happens.

Reading on….
Marian Brelje

LWML: LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSIONS

Happy Fall!

Our Rummage sale was held on October 17th. We do not have all the details yet, but at this time it looks like we raised just shy of $2000! This money will be used to fund mission projects that our group will vote on at our February meeting. The left-over items from the rummage sale were donated to DAV (Disabled American Vets) from St Cloud. The gentlemen from this establishment came on Saturday afternoon to pick up everything and they were very happy with all the items that they received!

At our October meeting part of our group assembled a gift for our Veterans to be handed out in November on Veterans Day. Those that were not putting together the gift helped the Sunday School by assembling the boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Please see their Christmas tree and table set up in the narthex by the library window to help the Sunday School with this project!









October 24th was our Zone Rally. We had 10 women and Pastor from our congregation attend and over 1000 items (in total from all congregations attending) for MN Adult and Teen Challenge were collected! We are still accepting donations for this organization through the end of the year. The box for these is under the LWML table in the hallway. Thank you to all that have so generously donated up to this point!

We are collecting items for the 'Small Mall' again this year. This will be held on Dec 7th and 8th. There is a box for this also under the LWML table.

At our October meeting we had our election of officers for the new term. Our new and continuing officers are Rhonda Fassett for Christian Life, Jennifer Adamek for Vice President, Ann Smith for secretary, Kari Kremer for Human Care, Brenda Wysoski for Treasurer, and Tracy Boysen for President. Please keep all our officers in your prayers as we lead our group to carry out Gods work.

Our Christmas luncheon will be 12 noon on Saturday, Dec 5th at the Pioneer Grill at Grand Arbor. All women of the church are invited to join us. There will be a sign-up sheet as the date gets closer.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, Nov 16th, at 6:30 pm with Pastor John as our speaker and installing our officers.

We wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Tracy Boysen, LWML President

FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Team has been busy this fall with events for members of all ages. The fall events started with the Polka Fest which included an authentic German dinner while enjoying music from the Jolly Ramblers.

The next event was the long-awaited Progressive Dinner. Participating in this year's dinner were two groups of 12 to 14 people. Each group had a 4-course meal (i.e., appetizers, soup or salad, main entre and desert) with each course being prepared and served by a member of the group at their house. Thanks to all who prepared a course and all who participated. The final course (desert) was served at church. This was a great way for members to “break bread” together and have time to get to know each other better. While this was a great success, we hope to have more groups participating in the future and you are able to join us.







Next is Trunk or Treat held Saturday, October 31st-details and pictures coming in Decembers Good News…



Coming very soon….

Good Shepherd Chili Cook-Off.

November 21st at 5:00pm.

Watch for signups and more information coming soon!

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON-November 11@11:30am Pizza Ranch

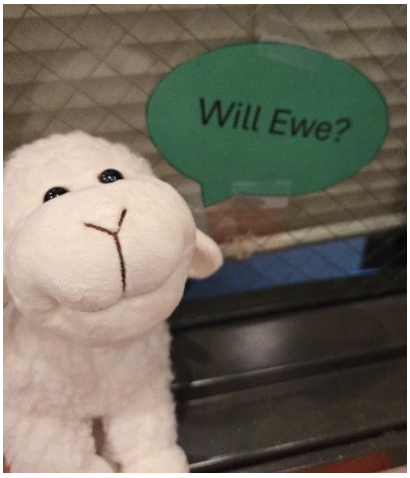
Yours in fellowship,

Greg Armbruster

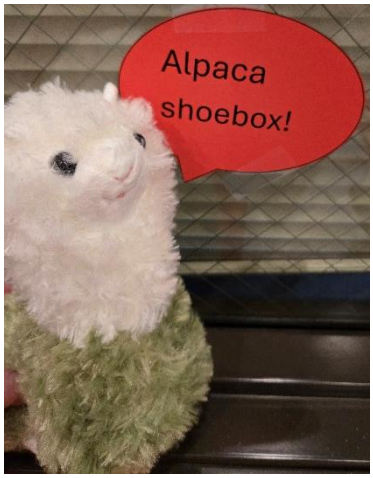
NOTE: Our Monthly meeting day/time is changing to the 3rd Tuesday @ 5:30pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, November 15, we invite you and your children to join us in the Education Wing during the Sunday School hour for a special, hands-on packing event for Operation Christmas Child.



This will be a fun, festive service event for the whole church family. Together, we can share God's love and bring hope to children in need around the world this Christmas season.



Here is how you can help us reach our goal of 50 packed shoe boxes:

- Grab a Tag: Look at the Christmas tree in the lobby to find specific donation items we still need to fill the boxes. We ask that all donated items be brought to church by Sunday, November 8.
- Bring a Shipping Donation: Each shoe box costs $10 to ship. Donations toward shipping costs are greatly appreciated! Sunday School kids have been working hard putting their offering each week towards this.
- Pack Together: The whole Good Shepherd Congregation is invited to join us on November 15 ready to pack, pray over, and prepare these gifts with your kids.

Thank you for your generosity and for partnering with us to make a global impact. We can't wait to see you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are SO excited to offer **Bible Adventure Boxes** for families to enjoy together at home! Each box is filled with fun ways for kids of all ages to explore God's Word, including games, crafts, books, songs, and other activities.

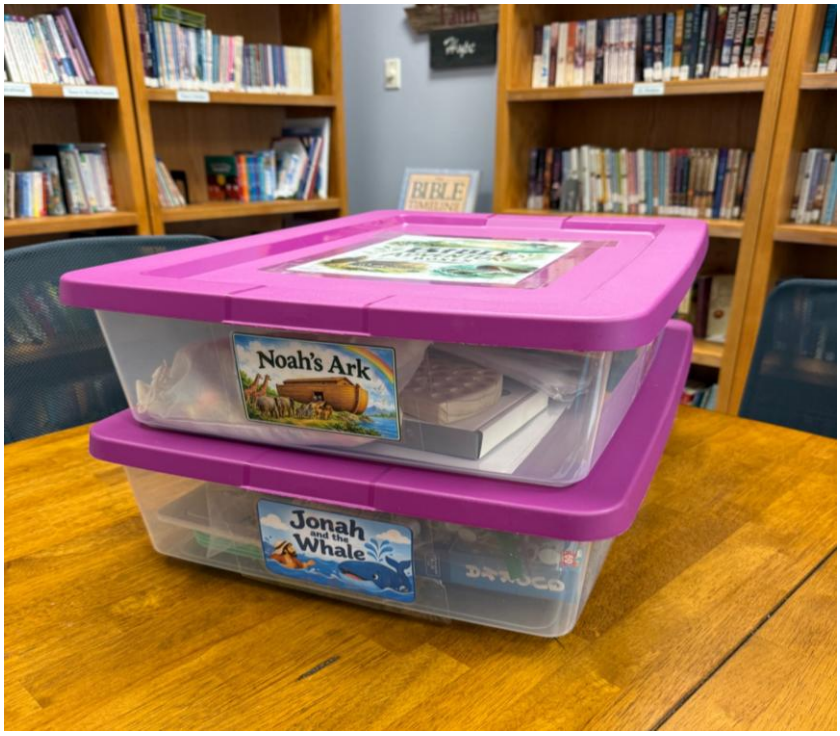
A huge THANK YOU to the one and only Nancy Gesell for thoughtfully putting these boxes together and organizing all the wonderful materials!

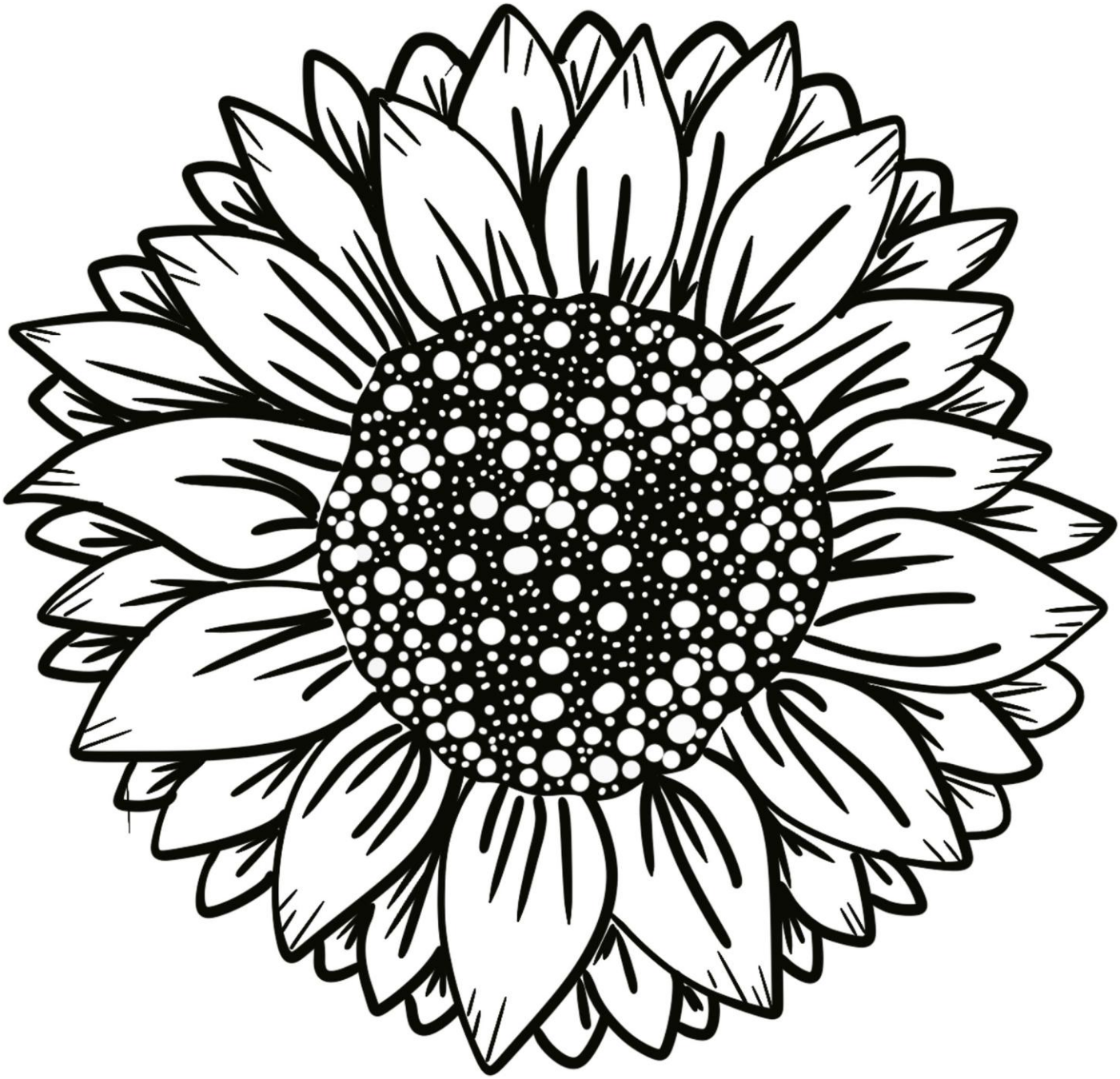
Here's how it works:

Check out: Find the boxes in the library and sign one out using the sign-up sheet on the wall.
Enjoy: Take a box home and have fun exploring the Bible together as a family!
Return: Please return your box within one week so other families have a chance to enjoy it, too. Be sure to put all materials back in the box and return to the library.
Missing or broken items: If anything gets lost or damaged, please make a note on the sign-in sheet when you return the box so we can repair or replace items as needed.

We hope these boxes bring lots of fun, meaningful conversations, and opportunities to grow in faith together. Happy exploring!

Rachel Wenz
Sunday School Director
(952) 465-5733





I AM THANKFUL FOR:

JOIN US FOR

WOMENS-GIVING *Dinner*



A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP, GOOD FOOD,
AND CRAFTS!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH
5:30-8:00 PM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Potluck style meal:
Please sign up for what dish you would like to share.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever."
Psalms 107:1



Happy Anniversary….

Vern and Cheryl Corson	Nov 6	Ray and Deb Bohn	Nov 21

Happy Birthday….

Bailey Teschendorf	Nov 01	Owyn Oscarson	Nov 16
Logan Dehne	Nov 01	Denise M. Johnson	Nov 20
Kaden Bolstad	Nov 04	Jacob Berger	Nov 20
Ryan Jonas	Nov 04	Amanda Christianson	Nov 21
Quinn Johnson	Nov 05	Virginia Hodgson	Nov 22
Sarah Sprengeler	Nov 10	Norma Olson	Nov 23
Dawson Meinert	Nov 11	Jase Johnson	Nov 23
Harlan Roth	Nov 13	LaVonne Schimmelpfennig	Nov 24
Joanne Wilke	Nov 13	Carla Setterstrom	Nov 26
Mike Carlsrud	Nov 13	Wendy Simonson	Nov 27
Charlotte Tintes	Nov 14	Avery Wenz	Nov 28
Rachel Wenz	Nov 16	Todd Johnson	Nov 28

Good Shepherd Family and Friends, Clarence, Kris & Carol have appreciated your prayers and support for the men at Adult & Teen Challenge over the years, but especially this past 13 months. Our nephew, Devan a young man who has been redeemed and is graduating from the faith-based program on Tuesday, October 27th. He will continue his recovery living in Alexandria and working with Teen Challenge as a Recovery Coach.

Blessings and prayers,
Clarence, Kris & Carol

November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  9:00am Worship Holy Communion 10:15am Education Hour -NO ADULT 11:00am Education Hour Closing	**2** **6:30pm DARTBALL UCC @ GS**	**3** **7:00am Alex Township Voting-FELLOWSHIP HALL**	**4** 7:30am MEMORIA CIRCLE Home School 10:00am Bible Study	**5** Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches 6:30pm UPLIFTERS ALEXANDRIA	**6** 9:30am LIFE CO-OP HOME SCHOOL	**7**
8 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15am Education Hour 11:00am Education Hour Closing	**9** **4:15pm LWML Lead Meeting** **6:30pm DARTBALL GS @ Villard**	**10** **6:30pm Executive Council Meet**	**11** 7:30am MEMORIA CIRCLE Home School 10:00am Bible Study ***11:30am Fellowship Luncheon Pizza Ranch***	**12** Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches	**13** 9:30am LIFE CO-OP HOME SCHOOL	**14**
15 9:00am Worship **10:15am Service Opportunity** 11:00am Education Hour Closing	**16** **6:30pm DARTBALL Zion 1 @ GS** **6:30pm LWML Meeting**	**17** **5:30pm Fellowship Team** **7:00pm Elders Meet**	**18** 7:30am MEMORIA CIRCLE Home School 10:00am Bible Study	**19** Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches **5:30-8:00PM Women's-Giving Dinner** 6:30pm UPLIFTERS ALEXANDRIA	**20** 9:30am LIFE CO-OP HOME SCHOOL	**21** **5:00pm CHILI COOK-OFF**
22 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15am Education Hour 11:00am Education Hour Closing	**23** **6:30pm DARTBALL Zion 2 @ GS**	**24**	**25** 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Thanksgiving Worship	**26** **OFFICE CLOSED** ***HAPPY THANKSGIVING***	**27**	**28**
29 9:00am Worship 10:15am Education Hour 11:00am Education Hour Closing	**30** **6:30pm DARTBALL St John's @ GS**	1	2	3	4	5