



DECEMBER FAMILY NEWS

Joyfully His ~ Pastor Jahnke

What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail? That hypothetical question is supposed to evoke a sense of unrestrained dreaming and wonder to help propel people forward to decision and action. Psychologically it can be helpful for motivating people to be resilient, to create clear or ambitious goals, or to overcome self-doubt and other mental challenges. It can be life changing when someone realizes how their own mindset can affect outcomes in life.

As Americans we tend to highly value those who have made a name for themselves, pull themselves up by their bootstraps, and achieved some level of the "American dream" relative to their circumstances. We will tell stories relating our success or lack of success to the lives of our parents or grandparents. Our keep of the different generations shows some of this mindset. If you compared the mindset of "Millennials", to those in the "Greatest Generation" you'll see the stark contrast of people who believe you should be able to overcome any problem or challenge. Millennials doesn't tend to represent those born from 1981 to 1996. It's used as slang for those who only think about failure, who sit at home all day with no job, playing video games, and people think are generally lazy that haven't had any challenges in life. While the ethos of the "Greatest Generation" (1901-1927) has trickled down to other generations awestruck at how to overcome circumstances. I point this out, not to settle a debate between ages or generations, but to bring to your minds the VII article of the Augsburg Confession which begins by saying this:

It is also taught that at all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel

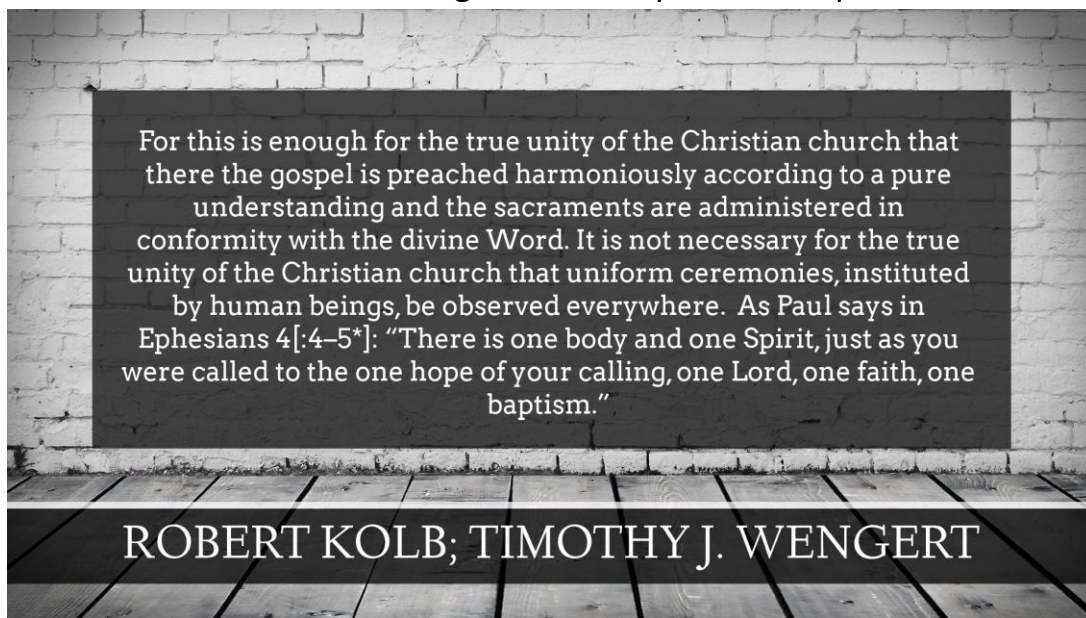
AUGSBURG CONFESSION VII BOOK OF CONCORD



This is what we believe, teach, and confess concerning the Church. This article of faith is not some dead doctrine, but a living reality that impacts many questions we wrestle through today like: why are there so many denominations, do the differences matter, why can't we just get along, or why is the church under attack so much?

When Jesus asks his disciples in Matthew 16:15 who they confess Jesus to be, Peter replies, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." In Jesus' life we see and realize that he can do everything without failure. He is the sinless, spotless, lamb of God, who sits at the right hand of God with all power, authority, and majesty. After Peter confesses the truth about Jesus, Jesus responds that, "on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." It's as if Jesus gives us an answer to the question, "what would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?" His response is essentially, "establish something that would never fail." Apart from this article of faith we find overinflated sense of ego and pride that would cripple the Church by making it worry about it's existence. Without article VII of the Augsburg Confession we have nothing to ground us in the work of Jesus Christ, because we wouldn't have the Church.

Here is how the rest of the article goes on to explain the impact of Article VII:



So, if I were to ask you all, the Church, Jesus' bride, the question we started this article with, "what would you do if you knew you couldn't fail"? The only right answer would be something like this: "follow the one who never failed, Jesus Christ, hearing purely from his Word and giving the sacraments as they were given to us from Jesus." In Jesus we find forgiveness for our failures, our overinflated ego, and our apathy toward his pure word and sacraments which can never be overcome by the games of hell. Jesus can't fail, he has overcome death, in him we are more than conquerors. (Romans 8:37)



Joyfully His,
-Pastor Jonathan Jahnke

ELDER'S CORNER

Sharing the Load, Shaping the Heart

In every season of the church, God gives us countless reminders that we were never meant to walk this life alone. From the Israelites traveling through the wilderness to the early believers gathering in homes, Scripture paints a picture of a people who lift one another when the road grows heavy. *"Carry each other's burdens,"* Paul writes in Galatians 6:2, *"and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

**Carry each
other's burdens,
and in this way
you will fulfill
the law of Christ.**

GALATIANS 6:2

Sharing the burdens of others is more than a kind gesture—it is a holy calling. When we pause long enough to notice the quiet struggles around us, when we step toward a hurting brother or sister with compassion, we are participating in Christ's own ministry. Every act of listening, every prayer whispered on someone's behalf, every casserole delivered, every

encouraging word sent at the right moment—these are the small, sacred threads that weave a community of love.

And this is where servant leadership comes alive. We often think leadership means taking charge or standing at the front. But in the Kingdom of God, the greatest leaders are those who stoop, who serve, who walk alongside. Jesus Himself knelt with a towel and basin, showing us, that leadership begins on our knees long before it stands on a platform.

Each of us, no matter our gifts or stage in life, can be a servant leader. We can ask God each morning, *"Who needs encouragement today? Where can I bring light? Whose burden can I help carry, even for a moment?"* When we lead by serving, the church becomes what God intended—an overflowing well of grace, strength, and hope for all who enter.

May we continue to be people who notice, who care, and who act. And as we do, may Christ shape our hearts to reflect His own: gentle, generous, and ready to serve.

Yours in Christ,

Greg



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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our meeting on December 7, 2025, at 10:20 AM, so, you can share your feelings and vote on

1) Elections of three Executive Council members:

- a) Treasurer
- b) Secretary
- c) Council Member at Large

2) Approval of the 2026 budget including an addition for the Fellowship Hall flooring project as recommended by the Executive Council

3) Approval for Pastor Jahnke's housing allowance for 2026.

4) Set a date to install our new officers

Yours in Christ
Loren Boysen



Pastor
Jonathan Jahnke



Loren Boysen
Chairman



Dave Bertek
Vice Chair



Stephanie Bertek
Secretary



Evelyn Buelke
Treasurer



Carol Barenz
Council Member



Gary Lips
Council Member



Kevin Mork
Financial Secretary



Denise Norheim
Council Member



Bill Teschendorf
Council Member

GIVING YTD

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fund Balance October 2025

		FUNDS	EXPENSES
Current Month's Offerings		\$32,625.87	
Year To Date Total Offerings		\$335,965.13	
Thrivent Choice Dollars-YTD		\$3,611.00	
Miscellaneous Income-YTD		\$1,475.40	
LCEF Account Transfer-YTD		\$0.00	
Current Month's General Expense			\$39,033.79
Year to Date Total Expense			\$323,076.95
Current Month Net Less Expense	(\$6,407.92)		
Year to Date Net Less Expense	\$12.888.18		

Stay up to date on the weekly giving and attendance. Informational email is sent every Thursday around 12:30pm. If you are not receiving this email and would like to please inform the church office to be added to the list.

Did you know? The Executive Council Monthly minutes and Treasure reports are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hallway. Check it out- also posted there are the T.I.M. Missions Newsletters see how our Missionaries are sharing God's Word.

Online Giving

VANCO MOBILE

(Support our ministries from anywhere.)

Go to the App Store or Google Play to download the Vanco Mobile app for free.

GET STARTED
Scan me



1) *Create your*

login and password

2) *Search for Our Church*

Enter our church's name and click Search
Then, select our church

3) *Select Your Fund and Amount*

Select your fund and donation frequency, then
select your payment method.

4) *Enter Payment Method*

You can save this payment method for future
donations.

5) *Choose to Cover Processing Fees*

You can choose to cover the donation
processing fees by adding a small amount on
top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.

6) *Complete Your Donation*

Review and complete your gift by clicking
Submit.

*Pick up a flyer in the Narthex on the CHURCH communication wall
for step-by-step instructions!*

ALTAR GUILD

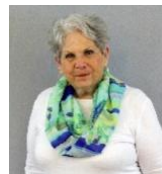


When you read this, the Sanctuary and other areas of the church will be decorated for the Season of Advent; THE TIME of CHRISTMAS. Advent is a Latin word that means "coming" and dwells on the preparation for the coming of Christ. The first part of Advents focus is on the coming of Christ as King and Judge, while the end part looks to His coming incarnation. The mood of Advent is one of hope, anticipation, and preparedness. There are four Sundays in Advent, starting with the Sunday closest to the 30th of November. The third Sunday in Advent is called Gaudete, which means "rejoice." The theme being the anticipation of the joy that is coming to our world at the Nativity.

Because the secular world begins celebrating Christmas on the day after Thanksgiving and ending on December 25th, Advent has been displaced. Also, there are those in the congregation who want to sing Christmas music instead of Advent hymns, there are those who decorate the church way in advance of the actual celebration of the Nativity. The want to do both of these should be resisted. Advent is too important to shorten or to displace it.

The season of Christmas begins the evening of December 24th, and continues through January 5th. On the eighth day of Christmas two festivals happen; the Circumcision of Our Lord and the Name of Jesus. Depending on the day of the week Christmas falls, there could be two Sundays after Christmas. Most years there is only one. Because of the nature of this single event in history of the world and its meaning for our salvation, the festival and season of Christmas is a time of great joy.

Please Thank Marian Brelje and Marilyn Grothe for their care of the Altar in November. LaVonne Schimmelpfenning and Deb Hul will care for the Altar in December. Denise Armbruster will do Altar care in January. Thank you to the Rasmussen's for the Altar flowers in November.



Submitted by,
Amory Anderson



LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS



The Widow of Larkspur Inn by Lawana

Blackwell is about a woman living in London whose husband died. She knew little about the financial situation and was shocked to discover that she and her three children would have to leave the mansion and servants because of debts incurred by her physician husband that she knew nothing about. The only place they still owned was a hotel in the country that hadn't been used for eight years. She went there along with her three children and her maid who insisted that she wanted to go with them too. Through lots of prayers, they fixed it up so it was usable. Great story detailing all the problems the family went through and how the prayers to God were answered.

The Courtship of the Vicar's Daughter by

Lawana Blackwell is about several people and their courtships in the village of Gresham. Many of these involved the people who made their homes in Larkspur Inn which was owned by Mrs. Hollis. It is interesting to see how Elizabeth Phelps, Mercy Sanders and Mrs. Kingston eventually find their mates.

The Dowry of Miss Lydia Clark by Lawana

Blackwell had Lydia Clark, who had resigned her life to be spent without a husband suddenly discovers someone she is drawn to but the problem is he thinks someone else is for him. This book has several other romances ending in marriage that makes it a very interesting read.

The Jewel of Gresham Green by Lawana

Blackwell has Jewel Libby fleeing to Gresham in order to protect her daughter from danger. It also has Vicar Andrew Phelps with serious health problems and his being unwilling to send for his son who is a doctor with a very controlling wife who has little to do with his family. It shows the miracles God does in getting everyone together.

Want help finding a book that interests you? Check the synopsis of all the books that have been shared in the Newsletter, located by the sign out book!

HAPPY READING!!



Marian Brelje

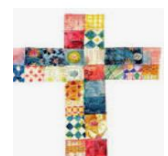


LOVE PATCHES

Love Patches group is back in full swing making lap quilts and baby quilts for baptisms. We are very thankful for the sewing machine that was donated to us by Gloria. We enjoy both the creating and fellowship that we have Thursday mornings. Please let one of us know if you have someone who would be comforted by receiving a quilt.



Marian Brelje





LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission had the privilege of having Pastor Jahnke lead us in devotions and share on the topic of visiting with Shut Ins at our November meeting. As we were waiting for our members to arrive, we enjoyed a delicious cake and snack brought by Jennifer Adamek. Pastor Jahnke installed our newly elected officers:



- ★ Tracy Boysen, President;
- ★ Jennifer Adamek, vice president 1-year term
- ★ Brenda Wysoski, Treasurer
- ★ Kari Kremer, Human Care
- ★ Marcia Lips, Christian Life for a 1-year term

In December there is the yearly social event in place of our normal meeting. All Women are invited to Join us at the Grille at Grand Arbor on December 6, 2025 for a meal and time of socializing at 12:00 noon. Come and bring a friend as well.

Luther Women in Mission won't meet in January, but will resume our next regular meeting in February.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barb Schuneman, President,
"Serve the Lord with gladness!"
Psalm 100:2



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month in Sunday School our friend Rae the Manta Ray has been helping us learn a new bible verse.

Psalm 33:4 says "For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does." Going into the holiday season it is a great reminder that we can trust God to give us the energy, patience, and joy we need in order to get through the busy holidays, while focusing on the reason for the season, Jesus ☺!

A few reminders as we go into December about our upcoming Christmas Program. First of all, the program is **December 14th** and will take place during the Sunday School hour, after service that Sunday. We have been working on learning the songs during Sunday School and will have our first practice for the program **Saturday, December 6th, 9-10:30am**. Practice will also take place during Sunday School on **Sunday December 7th** and then on **Saturday, December 13th, 10-11:30am**. It would be great if the kids could make it to as many practices as possible, so that they are better prepared and more comfortable during the program.

Thank you, parents, for the time you have put into your children! Also thank you to everyone who has supported Sunday School with your prayers, time, and your talents! We can't wait to see what this holiday season has in store for us all!



Myah Kremer



Mom's Group

Grow in God's Word with other mom's and a play time for our children.

We would love to have you!



Good Shepherd Moms Group

December
8

January
12 • 26

February
9 • 23

March
9 • 23

April
13 • 27

May
11

If you have any questions please
contact: Danielle Jahnke 507•273•7436

FELLOWSHIP



Good 'Chef' herd Hotdish cook off took place on November 22nd. Congratulations Sarah Sprengeler!!!



Winning Recipe~ "Chicken Spectacular"

4 boneless skinless chicken breasts cooked and cubed

1 can cream of celery soup

1 cup mayo

1 can French style green beans (drained)

1 box Uncle Ben's long grain & wild rice (prepared)

1 can sliced water chestnuts-drained

1 cup chopped onions (optional)

Mix All and bake uncovered @ 375° for 45 minutes.

Thank you everyone for sharing and enjoying the cookoff.

Next Event planned- Family Game Day! Feb 1st

2pm-4pm

Fellowship team

Good Shepherd Directory

Good Shepherd Family Members You now have the ability to update your contact information, your family photo and more by logging into the Members Instant Church Directory Site at

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com>

What is the Instant Church Directory Member App and Website?

The Instant Church Directory Member App is a free tool that allows members to view the church's directory on their iPhone, iPad, iPad Mini, Android device, or through a web browser.

Members can:

- View church and staff information
- Search and view family listings
- Call, email, or text directly from the app (if contact details are available)

Any updates made in the online Admin site will automatically sync to members' devices, ensuring they always have the latest version of the directory.

Iphone users- <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/instant-church-directory/id589542221>

Android users:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instantchurchdirectory.members&pcampaignid=web_share

Dear.....:

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer.

As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration. I remember last year there was a great feast in my honor.

The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts.

But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor and they didn't remember to send me an invitation.

The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face...and I wanted to be with them and share their table. In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner.

They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a grand time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling HO-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus" as if the party were in his honor!

At midnight all the people began to hug each other, I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and do you know no one hugged me.

Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one?

I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left. Every year it gets worse.

People only remember the gifts, the parties, to eat and drink, and nobody remembers me.

I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you.

Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart. I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements.

Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters, in my great guest book.

Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invite, will be left outside. Be prepared because when all is ready you will be part of my great party.

See you soon.

I Love you! Jesus

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS



Dec 4th - Kristofer Setterstrom

Dec 5th - Nancy Hasz

Dec-5th - Jim Walburg

Dec-6th - Cheryl Corson

Dec- 6th - Verla Schwendemann

Dec- 9th - Rebecca Johnson

Dec- 14th - Grace Berninghaus

Dec- 14th - Vicki Paulson

Dec- 14th - Marshal Swenson

Dec 16th - Melody Cizadlo

Dec 16th - Norman Schimmelpfennig

Dec 17th - Kaylene Thooft

Dec 20th - Doug Hunt

Dec 21st - Macy Wenz

Dec 22nd - Zane Christianson

Dec 23rd - Bruce Swenson

Dec 24th - David Anhalt

Dec 26th - Addi Bergs

Dec 26th - David Bertek

Dec 27th - Timothy Hull

Dec 28th - Candace Rodriguez

Dec 28th - Jordan Reese

Dec 29th - Jayden Buchholz

Dec 29th - Grace Lueth

Dec 29th - David Nelson

Dec 31st - Ivy Erickson

Dec 31st - Elizabeth Hausmann

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Worship

December 3rd

Supper @ 6:00pm Worship @ 7:00pm

December 10th

Supper @ 6:00pm Worship @ 7:00pm

December 17th

Supper @ 6:00pm Worship @ 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24th

7:00pm

Sunday Worship

Sunday, December 7th

9:00am Worship with Communion

10:20am Annual Voters Meeting

Sunday, December 14th

9:00am Worship with Communion

10:30am Sunday School Program

11:30am Christmas Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 21st

9:00am Worship

Sunday, December 28th

9:00am Worship

Connect with us:



DECEMBER 2025

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00am Worship 10:15am Education Hour NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:00pm "The Chosen" Study	1 6:30pm Dart Ball St. John's @ Good Shepherd	2 4:30pm Worship Team practice	3 7:30am MC Home School Co-op 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm ADVENT SUPPER / 7:00pm ADVENT WORSHIP	4 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches 5:30pm Elder's Dinner 6:30pm Uplifters Alexandria	5	6 9:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM PRACTICE 12:00pm LWML Women Social
7 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Education Hour 10:20am 2025 ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING	8 9:30a Mom's Group 4:15p LWML Lead Meeting 6:30p Dart Ball UCC @ Good Shepherd	9 4:30pm Worship Team practice 5:00pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm Executive Council Meet	10 7:30am MC Home School Co-op 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm ADVENT SUPPER/ 7:00pm ADVENT WORSHIP	11 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches	12	13 9:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM PRACTICE
14 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Education Hour 10:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM	15 6:30p Dart Ball Villard @ Good Shepherd	16 4:30pm Worship Team practice 7:00pm Elders Meet	17 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm ADVENT SUPPER / 7:00pm ADVENT WORSHIP	18 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches 6:30pm Uplifters Alexandria	19 6:00pm Christmas Movie Night "The Star"	20
21 9:00am Worship 10:15am Education Hour	22	23 4:30pm Worship Team practice	24 10:00am Bible Study 5:00pm Christmas Candle Light Worship	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Merry Christmas	26	27
28 9:00am Worship 10:15am Education Hour	29	30 4:30pm Worship Team practice	31 10:00am Bible Study	1	2	3

