



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



Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage PAID

Wells, MM

56097

Permit No. 7

## **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Wednesday Worship 6:15 pm

Holy Communion 1st and 3rd weeks

Pastor Vern Christopherson -

pastorgslc@bevcomm.net

Administrative Secretary: Amy

Schroeder, shepherd@bevcomm.net

Treasurer: Jackie Huper

Technical Advisor: Pat Ojanen,

pojanen@gmail.com

Church Office: M-F 8:30-3:00, Fri-

days 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](http://www.goodshepherdwells.org)

Live Stream: <https://>

[goodshepherdwells.online.church/](https://goodshepherdwells.online.church/)

**Address Service Requested**

**August 2025**

**Vol. 65 No. 08**

**Your 2025 Church Council Members** [shepherd@bevcomm.net](mailto:shepherd@bevcomm.net)

507-383-1083 - President Brian Ehlert (IT) 2026

507-676-1289 - Nancy Bruckhoff (Y&E) 2025

507-456-5462 - Sara Lutteke (Y&E) 2025

218-310-1220 - Secretary Pat Ojanen (PM, IT) 2026

507-327-0918 - VP William Groskreutz Jr. (PM, Alter) 2026

815-718-2786 - Tammy Winstead (Y&E) 2027

507-456-3699 - Jody Wegner (Fellowship) 2027

### **Opportunities to Give Back!**

1. We have a Truck for the Kernel's Day Parade. We need a driver and some people to ride & throw out candy. Please contact the office (507) 553-3513 / [shepherd@bevcomm.net](mailto:shepherd@bevcomm.net).
2. Anyone can make a donation to the eternal candle in the Sanctuary. Donations can be made in honor or memory of loved ones, or for any special event or need.
3. Lauryne Stern retired as Youth and Ed director. Special thanks for her hard work over the last four years! Anyone interested in leading or helping the team, please call the office!
4. Good Shepherd is looking for a Wednesday night Pre-K/K teacher, helpers for Wednesday and Sunday School, and substitute teachers. ANY time you can give will make our program a success! Call or email the Office.
5. Anyone interested in directing or helping with the Christmas program, young or old, please call or email the office.
6. We are looking for a Volunteer to replace a Council Member.
7. You can switch to a emailed copy of the newsletter at any time by contacting the Office.

## Introducing.....

### **Pastor Deborah Lyanga**

Currently, Pastor Deborah serves as Associate Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kasson. She will begin her work at Good Shepherd on September 21st after a Mission trip to her home in Tanzania. She will be officially installed on September 28th by the SE Minnesota Synod Bishop. Please read an introduction to Pastor Deborah from Sandi Hartman, Search Committee Chair, later in this issue.



Please consider  
converting your  
subscription to  
The Voice Today by  
sending an email to:

[goodshepherd@bevcomm.net](mailto:goodshepherd@bevcomm.net)

And say "Please email The Voice to me."

## **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council Meeting July 17, 2025, 5:30pm**

Those Present: President Brian Ehlert, VP Bill Groskreutz, Accountant Jackie Huper, Tammy Winstead, Pat Ojanen, Pastor Vern Christopherson, Guest Sandi Hartman. Unable to attend: Nancy Bruckhoff, Jody Wegner, Sara Lutteke, Kevin Clarke

Devotions and Prayer led by Brian Ehlert.

Agenda and the Consent Agent were approved, motion by Pat Ojanen, Seconded by Bill Groskreutz.

### **Strategic Work**

1. Sandy Hartman reported on status of the Call to Reverend Deborah, that she has accepted and her first Sunday will be September 21, 2025. Her Installation Date will be September 28<sup>th</sup> with the Bishop attending.
2. Jackie Huper reviewed Financial Report for past month plus a summary of the first 6 months of 2025.
3. The Accounts Committee of Brian, Bill and Jody are still going to set a date for their first meeting.

### **Old Business**

1. The Church Auction was deemed a success. After expenses, the net profit was \$4448.50 Many thanks to Linda Stern and her team of helpers for all of their hard work.
2. A summary of the Core Values presentation was shared by Pastor Vern.

### **New Business**

1. Kevin Clarke has resigned as Secretary and Council Member due to a change in Job responsibilities. Pat Ojanen has agreed to record and transcribe the meetings from Today on. Brian will notify the Congregation during his Sunday update and ask for a volunteer to take this open spot for the remainder of the 2 ½ years.

2. Report on status of Kitchen Dishwasher. Kent is replacing a valve that is on order.
3. A Farewell Celebration for Pastor Vern is being planned for September 14<sup>th</sup> after the Worship Service.
4. The Property & Management Team requested approval of the purchase of protection cloths for the new tables in the Student Rooms where crafts are worked on. Due to not having a quorum present the matter was turned back to the committee to make the decision.
5. There is a Request for a Youth and Education Committee Chair, Laryne Stern has retired, and Nancy takes care of the Curriculum which fills up all her spare time. Requests will go out to parents for their assistance during the school year to aid in education and discipline issues.
6. Brian suggested we make a real effort to start up a Senior Youth group for grades 9-12 this year.
7. Bill suggested that we research options for Binding and Archiving Church Bulletins and Newsletters, noting that the last 5 years need to be completed.
8. Pat reported that there has been a limited response (30 of 260 subscribers) to requests to reduce the mailing of Newsletters, and another attempt to reach subscribers will be made.
9. Brian suggested that we complete a Picture Dictionary of Staff, Council and Committees to present to Pastor Deborah.
10. Next Meeting of the Council will be on August 21<sup>st</sup> hosted by Jodi Wegner at her home.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm with a prayer by Pastor Vern.



**Special thank you to Marlene Kauffmann for  
refreshing the kid's worship bags.  
Kids, check out the new items!**

## **Y & E Minutes- July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

Present: Nancy, Tammy, Lindsey, Sara, Jill & Pastor Vern

### **Old Business**

1. Loose change discussion
2. Confirmation banquet possibly Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>. (Confirmation is Oct 26.) Send a letter to RSVP for the banquet.
3. Confirmands are good to go with sermon notes and service hours.
4. Amy will need their Bible Verses

### **New Business**

1. Truck will be in the kernels day parade. Kids let the church know if they want to be in the parade.
2. Education calendar will be in the August Voice. Sunday school begins Sept 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Rally day is Wednesday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. Blessing of the backpacks will be Sept 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>.
4. Summer Camp for Good Earth Village will be planned for summer 2026
5. Possible curriculum change for Wed/Sun School
6. Discussion on getting a Christmas program director?

**Next Meeting Aug 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30**

**The Crafty Quilters would like to thank Jim Willner and his family for all the material and miscellaneous items that they donated to the church. We appreciate your generosity. Thank you again.**



## **Property and Management**

**July 1, 2025**

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

When we have a heavy driving rain, we have been getting water in the parsonage basement. We're working on it, also we've gotten water in the parlor one window well filled to the top and leaked in. We have at least a temporary fix in mind.

The A/C in the parsonage has been repaired and is working great.

The state elevator inspection has gone up from \$100.00 to \$145.00

We met with a guy from Schwickerts to check out the flat roof areas, he found several spots that should be taken care of. They do offer a yearly inspection as preventive maintenance. We're waiting to hear back with some figures.

We sold our old tables at the auction.

Our new Pastor has requested a higher right-height toilet for the master bedroom in the parsonage as well as an area rug or carpet remnant for the basement. We have two estimates one from Ron's for \$542.00 and the other from ESCO for \$592.00

**Next meeting Aug. 5 at 5:00 pm**

**A very sincere and appreciated thank you to everyone who came and helped me celebrate my 90th birthday and for making it so special. Also, thanks for the cards and gifts. It is a day I'll always remember. Thanks to my family for convincing me that this would be a good idea when I was resisting!**

**-Shirley Lesto**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
<b>3</b> 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion	<b>4</b> 9:30am Builders of Bones!	<b>5</b> 5pm Property & Management 5:30pm Youth & Education	6:15pm Worship
<b>10</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>11</b> 9:30am Builders of Bones!	<b>12</b>	9:30am Worship & 4:00pm Outreach 6:15pm Worship
<b>17</b> 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion	<b>18</b> 9:30am Builders of Bones!	<b>19</b>	6:15pm Worship
<b>24</b> 9:30am Worship	<b>25</b> 9:30am Builders of Bones!	<b>26</b>	10:30am Shepherd 6:15pm Worship
<b>31</b> 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion			





Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2
with Holy Communion 6	7 9:30am Builders of Bones!	8	9
& Music Committee & Fellowship 13	14 9:30am Builders of Bones!	15	16
with Holy Communion 20	21 9:30am Builders of Bones! 5:30pm Church Council	22 DEADLINE for Voice Minutes & Articles	23
d's Inn Communion 27	28 9:30am Builders of Bones!	29	30

# August

happy birthday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Corey Ehlert Kenneth Stenzel	2
3	4 Anna Schrader	5	6	7 Allen Stern	8 Amy Stenzel Paul Hensche	9 Brett Niebuhr Mariah Lutteke Ryan Crabtree
10 Gordon Kruger	11 Connor Ehlert Everly Christensen Jon Melby Nancy Bruckhoff	12 Gabriel Schroeder	13 Barry Lutteke Bryce Winstead Jay Schultz Riley Willner	14 Eva Schroeder Samantha Archer	15 Brayden Youngberg Kimberly Stangler	16 Carol Aske Julie Forderer
17	18	19 Nancy Elmer	20 Tatum Stangler Zachary Niebuhr	21 Andrew Heggen Gary Kauffmann	22 Kurt Niebuhr Sara Salisbury	23 Makenzie Schultz
24 Christopher Schultz Levi Hinkley	25 Sydney Niebuhr Taylor Jacobsen	26	27 Dustin Schultz Mason Loegering	28 Lisa Olson Margaret Treptow	29 Tom Huper	30 Deborah Larson Liam Schrader Stuart Johnson
31 Candy Berg						

## GSLC Education Schedule 2025 only

9/7/2025	Sunday School	9:30am Blessing of the Backpacks
9/10/2025	Wednesday School	Wednesday night meals begin at 5:15pm
		6:15pm Blessing of the Backpacks
		7pm Rally & Registration night-Fun, Fun, Fun!
9/14/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
9/17/2025	Wednesday School	7pm Education
9/21/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
9/24/2025	Wednesday School	7pm Education
9/28/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
10/1/2025	Wednesday School	7pm Education and confirmation
10/5/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
10/8/2025	Wednesday School	7pm Education and confirmation
10/12/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
10/15/2025	No Education	MEA Break (No Education or Confirmation)
10/19/2025	No Education	MEA Break (No Education or Confirmation)
10/22/2025	Wednesday School	7pm Education and confirmation
10/26/2025	Sunday School	<b>Reformation Sunday-9th grade Confirmation</b>
10/29/2025	Wednesday School	7pm Education and confirmation
11/2/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
11/5/2025	Wednesday School	7pm-Christmas Program Practice and confirmation
11/9/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
11/12/2025	Wednesday School	7pm-Christmas Program Practice and confirmation
11/16/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
11/19/2025	Wednesday School	7pm-Christmas Program Practice and confirmation
11/23/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
11/26/2025	No Education	Thanksgiving Break (No Education or Confirmation)
11/30/2025	No Education	Thanksgiving Break (No Education or Confirmation)
12/3/2025	Wednesday School	7pm-Christmas Program Practice and confirmation
12/7/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
12/10/2025	No Education	6:15 PM-Christmas Program Performance (livestream)
12/14/2025	Sunday School	During 9:30am Worship Service
12/17/2025	No Education	Christmas break begins ( <i>Christmas Program Back up</i> )
Christmas break Dec 17-Jan 3. Education/Confirmation resumes Sunday, Jan. 4th 2026		

## 2025 Good Shepherd Financials

INCOME	VS.	EXPENSE
\$35,074	JAN	\$26,335
\$18,317	FEB	\$21,867
\$57,227	MAR	\$32,082
\$21,179	APR	\$23,348
\$13,609	MAY	\$22,930
\$18,987	JUN	\$26,850

### Financial Info as of June 30, 2025

YTD Total Income	\$164,393
TYD Total Expense	\$153,412
YTD Oper. Savings Bal Fwd	\$45,000
YTD Oper. Savings Used	\$50,000
Difference	-\$84,019
YTD Oper Savings Paid Back	\$0.00

### Looking for a special cause?

You can make donations to special accounts such as Youth & Education, Streaming of Church Services, Wednesday Night Meals, Caring Ministry, Kitchen Fund, Adult Choir to name a few.

**Ways to Pray for Our New Pastor:** Here are just a few examples of how we can bless our new pastor with prayers throughout the year.

1. ☐ Lord, please help my pastor to look to you for strength, encouragement, and inspiration. Fill her with your anointing every week. Give her joy as she studies your Word, and bless her in her prayer life so she can enjoy deeper fellowship with you.
2. ☐ God, please encourage my pastor daily. Deliver her from discouragement and exhaustion. Give her strength and energy to fulfill the work you've called her to. Give her victory over every attack against her, and cover her mind, body, and spirit with your powerful protection.
3. ☐ Lord, please watch over my pastor's family. Bless her marriage and allow them to enjoy open communication, harmonious unity, and refreshing joy. Protect her children and watch over their health and spiritual well-being. Give her wisdom as a wife and a mother to make wise decisions for her home.

## **Greetings Good Shepherd Membership!**

We have much to celebrate and be thankful for. The work of the Call Committee has come to an end, and we will now have a new settled pastor who will begin serving with us September 21st. Our new pastor is Pastor Deborah Lyanga.

Pastor Deborah was born and raised in Tanzania, East Africa. She was ordained into the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania in 2005. She served as a congregational pastor for three years before being called to serve as the Director of Women's Ministries at the Central Diocese in Singida, Tanzania.

Pastor Deborah is married to Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Kaghondi and together they have two sons; Mercy, who will be a senior at Owatonna High School this fall and Abner, who will be in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade this fall. They moved to the US eight years ago and they both have their "green cards", which means they are permanent legal residents of the United States.

Pastor Deborah is leading a group of 14 people from her current congregation to Tanzania during August. They will be together in Tanzania for 2 weeks and then return home. Pastor Deborah will stay on in Tanzania for an additional 2 weeks to spend time with her family.

The Call Committee enjoyed meeting with Pastor Deborah. Her personality and kindness impressed us each time we interviewed her. I can honestly tell you that each member of the committee was "thumbs up" for her! We have found a gem. I strongly encourage each of you to spend a little time one on one with her. Meet her up town for a cup of coffee, stop in to visit her at the church or invite her into your home. Spend a little time getting to know her. You will see immediately what the committee members saw during the interviews.

Yes, we have much to be thankful for and to celebrate. Please keep Pastor Deborah and her family in your prayers so that her transition to Good Shepherd will flow smoothly for her and us.

Call Committee Chair,  
Sandi Hartman

## **Important Dates to Note**

September 7th 9:30 am Sunday School Begins with a Backpack Blessing during worship.

September 10th 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Meals Begin!!

September 10th 6:15 pm Backpack Blessing during Worship, Rally Registration Night after Worship Service.

September 14th Pastor Vern's Last Sunday

September 21st. Pastor Deborah begins

September 28th Pastor Deborah Installation

October Confirmation Begins

## **Recent Baptisms**

**Baptism of Sierra Lowe and Aiden Christenson were on July 13, 2025**

**Sierra Nicola Lowe**

Parents: Benjamin Lowe & Amy Christenson

Sponsors: Laura Vanden Heuvel & Tony Vanden Heuvel

**Aiden Charles Christenson**

Parents: Michael Christenson & Holly Lindboe

Sponsors: Amy Christenson, Ben Lowe, & Shelby Lindboe

**Baptism of Arya Rae Huper was held July 20, 2025**

Parents: William & Cassie Huper

Sponsors: Rachel Collins & Jordan Collins



# Lutheran Basics Vocabulary

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

sanctification

confession

atonement

gospel

creed

reconciliation

absolution

disciple

church

word

justification

salvation

worship

grace

sin

repentance

sacrament

trinity

faith

**Wednesday/Sunday School Registration Form 25-26 School Year**  
**Students PreK to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate	Grade	Baptism Date

**Parent Information**

First Name	Last Name	Cell Phone	Email Address

**EMERGENCY Contact**

First Name	Last Name	Cell Phone	Email Address

**ALLERGIES\*\*\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permission to post pictures and videos on social and paper media at GSLC. Please Sign**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** **Date**

**PARENTS AND GUARDIANS/FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

We would like each parent/grandparent to commit to assisting us during the school year by selecting an option below. We will call you to confirm that you are available. Any time you can give will make a difference!

**I WOULD LIKE TO:**

Help in the Classroom on Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ Help in the Classroom on Sunday \_\_\_\_\_

Help with the Christmas Program/Special Events as needed \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be a Teacher|or Substitute on Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_\_\_