

# resurrection REALity

Good Shepherd Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
525 63<sup>rd</sup> St Downers Grove, IL 60516  
(630) 852-1519 [www.gsdg.org](http://www.gsdg.org)  
What's Happening at Good Shepherd

## Easter 2 April 6/7, 2024

**Theme of the Day:** *The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace*

In most world religions, the alleged foundational event was experienced by only one person. A self-proclaimed prophet would claim that he alone had some special encounter with God. “No really! Just trust me. It really happened.” The resurrection reality is so very different. In the Great Resurrection Chapter (1 Corinthians 15), St. Paul writes an entire paragraph listing all the people to whom Jesus appeared after he rose, including a group of over five hundred at one time. It is like St. Paul is telling skeptics, “You don’t need to take my word for it. Hundreds of us saw Jesus back from the dead.”

The proof of Jesus’ resurrection brought peace and strength to those early believers. They knew there was more to their existence than just their time on earth. They knew the reality that eternal life was theirs, a gift from their living Lord. It gave them incredible joy and courage. May the resurrection reality give us the same.

**Series Theme:** *Resurrection Reality*

St. Paul writes, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:20). Big word: Indeed! Paul is stressing that we must not think of the Jesus’ resurrection like a happy ending to another epic fable. The resurrection is not legend. It really happened. Easter is not just a holiday. Easter is history. On time’s infinite line, Jesus’ resurrection is the moment that defines reality for us all. If Christ remained dead, he is a fraud and failure. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. If Christ remained dead, then the grave is the final, ugly, rotten end of us all. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality is Jesus’ resurrection proves that “all will be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future, but the way we look at life now.

The greatest theologian of the early church, Augustine, called the season of Easter “a joyful week of weeks”—seven wonderful weeks, each seven glorious days long. In this glorious season, let us meditate upon the breath-taking implications of the resurrection reality.

March 31	Without the Resurrection Faith is Futile	Easter Sunday
<b>April 6/7</b>	<b>The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace</b>	<b>Easter 2</b>
April 13/14	We Have a Meaningful Message to Share	Easter 3
April 20/21	The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding	Easter 4
April 27/28	The Living Lord Produces Active Faith	Easter 5
May 4/5	Jesus’ Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours	Easter 6
May 11/12	Christ’s Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever	Ascension
May 18/19	Christ Has Not Left Us Alone	Pentecost

### Good Shepherd Members

- ✚ Shepherding Committee would like to make sure **ALL** members who would like to receive our weekly “What’s Happening at Good Shepherd” email, inclusive of the weekly service folder, are. If you are not receiving these weekly emails on Fridays, please contact Jen Trow-Reynolds in our office at [office@gsdg.org](mailto:office@gsdg.org).
- ✚ Altar Flower signup link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E45AFA92CABFA7-altar>

## Women's Ministry Meeting

All women of the congregation (single, married, moms, and retirees) are welcome to join the Good Shepherd Women's Ministry. We will be meeting for bible studies/devotions and activities throughout the year. Please join us in making new Christian friends and developing relationships in the congregation.

We are meeting on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM for a devotion and breakfast at Steven's Family Restaurant located at 2393 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Woodridge (just west of Good Shepherd on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street).

Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or Sign-up Genius so we can make a reservation.

Feel free to contact Diane Buchholz ([dbuchholz1210@gmail.com](mailto:dbuchholz1210@gmail.com)), Sarah Rardin, Sue Mecklenburg, Hillary Brands or Fran Piepenbrink with any questions.



Did you know that you can earn our school 25 bonus Box Tops just for referring a friend? When you log into your account and share a referral code with a friend or family member GSLA will get 25 bonus Box Tops after they scan their first receipt!



To all members:

I would like to take this opportunity to update all our members on the great progress for our Academy!

- **Completed TADS update for next SCHOOL YEAR 2024 -- 2025.**
- **Set tuition rates**
- **Set OPEN HOUSE "live" April 20th == 10:00am to 12:00pm & April 21st ==12:00pm to 2:00pm**
- **Set classroom schedules with teachers.**
- **Research and ESTABLISH a Parent -Teacher league**
- **Sent numerous letters to outside churches without School's to invite their children to enroll in our school**
- **Establish upcoming BIC for non-members in the new school year.**
- **Interview all staff for the school to assess needs in the upcoming year.**

Also-----

Please assist the school with any VOLUNTEER time you may have:

If you are interested and can help us here are a few ideas.....contact: Barb Koch (630)852-5081 or Paul Schoenbeck ([paulbrook218@aol.com](mailto:paulbrook218@aol.com)):

- **Art assistant: 1x per week grades; K--8**
- **Music: PreK --8 1x per week each class**
- **Recess supervision; 30 min. all grades.**
- **Lunch supervision; 30 min. per day.**
- **Spanish--German language instruction---1x per week grade 3-8th**
- **Reading; 2x per week all grades.**
- **Correcting lessons 2-8th grades 1x per week**
- **Athletic scheduling and misc. The schedule is flexible.**
- **Choir; 1x per week grades 3--8**
- **Entertainment night assistance.**
- **Misc. classroom clean-up, after school activity asst.**
- **Assist teacher with misc. activity projects--as needed, all grades.**
- **Before and After School care outside normal class hours.**

There are many opportunities the list keep's growing. We strive to have an incredible and involved school and your talents are very important to achieving this goal.....Thank you for your consideration and encouragement!

Paul Schoenbeck,  
Education Ministry.

Link to "Pass Me Not" to help you prepare your hearts, minds, and voices:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqjogTA4GA8>

## 2024 April Hymn of the Month

### #822 Pass Me Not

by Fanny J. Crosby

Fanny Jane Crosby (1820-1915) was the author of over 8,500 gospel songs. Blind at six weeks of age, Crosby began composing texts at age 6. The inspiration for this hymn was the result of a visit to a prison during spring 1868. After she had spoken and some of her hymns had been sung, she heard one of the prisoners cry out in a pleading voice, 'Good Lord, do not pass me by'; she wrote a hymn that evening incorporating the line, "Pass me not, O gentle Savior."

Pass me not, O gentle Savior,  
Hear my humble cry;  
While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.

Let me at Thy throne of mercy  
Find a sweet relief;  
Kneeling there in deep contrition,  
Help my unbelief.

Savior, Savior,  
Hear my humble cry;  
While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.

Trusting only in Thy merit,  
Would I seek Thy face;  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,  
Save me by Thy grace.

Thou the spring of all my comfort,  
More than life to me;  
Whom have I on earth beside Thee?  
Whom in heaven but Thee?

[hymnal.net](http://hymnal.net)

Link to "Pass Me Not" to help you prepare your hearts, minds, and

voices: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqjogTA4GA8>

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## Youth Rally in Colorado, June 25-28th

We are looking at who might be interested in attending this summer's WELS Youth Rally. The rally will be in Fort Collins, Colorado and will provide for an amazing experience along with 2000 other teens. The Youth Rally includes inspiring worship, break-out sessions, and a ton of fun. It is for teens entering 9th to 2024 high school graduates, so anyone currently in 8th-12th grade is eligible. Cost is \$410 plus travel. We are partnering with other local WELS churches for registration and travel, to make this trip possible. If we have teens interested in attending, we may offer some fundraising opportunities for them to offset the cost of travel.

Lindsey Daehnke has agreed to be the point person for Good Shepherd, again this year. Please contact her by 2/25 to be added to a list of teens/chaperones interested attending the youth rally. You can call or text 630-263-5893 or speak with her directly.

Dear Good Shepherd members and school community,

The Ministry Coordinating Council and Education Ministry Team leaders gathered for our monthly Traction meeting. We welcomed two Good Shepherd members who wanted to observe the meeting.

The majority of time was used to discuss feedback we received over the last 8 days regarding the Blueprint Report. The result of the discussion was to share the entire Blueprint Report with everyone in our community, to delay the Special Voter Assembly one week to Monday Feb 26 at 7pm in the church sanctuary, to go forward with the open forum scheduled this Sunday Feb 18 between services at 9am, and to offer another open forum after the 10:30 worship at 11:30am on Sunday Feb 25.

We all understand how emotionally charged this Blueprint Report is. We need everyone to read the report, take your own notes, so that you can ask questions at the open forums. We believe the best decision is an informed decision versus an emotional decision.

The Blueprint Schools Consultants were given one directive by your leadership: When evaluating the capabilities of our congregation to operate a thriving school, tell us the truth in what you find. Be honest with us, even if it hurts. Please read the report.

We are grateful that the Holy Spirit led our congregation to Crossroads who guided our development of the ministry plan. We are grateful that the Holy Spirit led us to Blueprint Schools who objectively evaluated our capabilities as a congregation to operate our education ministry. And we trust in the Holy Spirit to inspire us to search his Word for truth and meaning for our lives and for his ministry here at Good Shepherd in Downers Grove.

Brothers and Sisters go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

Bill Merchantz  
Good Shepherd President



All children aged PreK-6th grade are welcome to join us to learn about God's word through stories, music and activities. We will meet in the school library, at the end of the school hallway, on Sundays from 9:10-10:20a.

Please use this link to complete the [2023-24 Registration Form for BLAST](#)

Thank you so much for your continued support of our program! We look forward to serving your family this year! If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at [BLAST@gsdg.org](mailto:BLAST@gsdg.org)

Teresa Schindler BLAST Team Leader

- Are you doing some spring cleaning? If you have a Children's Bible that might be looking for a new home, we would be happy to help you find one! We will be collecting used (and new) Children's Bibles to keep at church for families to use during services. There will be a basket in the church entry area for any Children's Bibles that you wish to donate to this effort.

Questions? [BLAST@gsdg.org](mailto:BLAST@gsdg.org)



### **Please consider greeting others to worship**

We Lutherans celebrate Life! Children & grandchildren bring joy to our lives.

You can bring joy to others with a warm welcome to worship here at Good Shepherd. No training required to smile a cheerful greeting. Sign-up sheet in narthex or call Laurie Bowen 630.852.5490.



**To All Member Families!** Shepherding Committee will be updating our family member pictures and information over the coming months. We are asking that you please take a family picture (in landscape direction with your favorite handheld device ;) and send this to our e-mail address: [shepherding@gsdg.org](mailto:shepherding@gsdg.org)

Please include family member names. Also, if there have been changes to your contact information (address, phone, e-mails), please include these updates with your picture in the e-mail to us. For any questions, please e-mail [shepherding@gsdg.org](mailto:shepherding@gsdg.org). God's Blessings! ~ Shepherding Committee

### **Good Shepherd Giving Tree**

The Good Shepherd Giving Tree special needs program:

What is a Giving Tree you might ask?

Giving Tree special needs ("GTSN") are unbudgeted and unplanned items desired by the congregation, sponsored by a Good Shepherd ministry coordinator, and approved by the MCC at any MCC meeting.

Giving Tree special needs funds ("GTF") are funds that are donated to the church by individuals, matching contributions, and third parties to pay for the MCC approved GTSN.

Our Ministry Support leader will collect the information for a GTSN and post it on the bulletin board for all to see. The sponsor of the GTSN will determine if money or a donated item is the best solution to the GTSN.

Once the total amount required to acquire the GTSN item is collected, the sponsor of the GTSN will coordinate with the Treasurer to purchase the item and provide all documentation needed to either be reimbursed or pay the vendor for the item. The GTSN will be removed from the bulletin board by the Ministry Support leader.

Any GTF collected above the amount needed to purchase the GTSN item will be transferred to the general fund of the church after the GTSN has been paid for.

The MCC recently approved a new Giving Tree Special Need:

601 Parsonage remodeling project: Once Ellen Zank moved out of the house at address 601, the property team made a list of projects that are needed to update the property, similar to what was done when Pastor Rutschow retired and moved out of the parsonage next door. The first priority was upgrade the electrical system to modern building codes. That project was completed and paid for with funds in the current maintenance and repairs budget. Next, the bathroom, kitchen, and floors need demolition. Our property team will do that work for free. To complete the remodeling, they need \$23,000 to buy tile, cabinets, fixtures, flooring, paint, etc. The MCC at its December meeting approved placing the funding request on the Giving Tree. We need additional contributions, above what you contribute in regular offerings, so that we can complete the 601 remodeling projects.

Good Shepherd leadership expects that the 601 parsonage will be used to support called workers in 2024.

We pray the Lord will bless this effort with generous gifts.

Bill Merchantz Good Shepherd President



### **Stamps for the Wounded Veterans**

At this time of the year you may be receiving more mail than normal and what better time to share your stamps with the Veterans. Many Wounded veterans find great enjoyment in stamp collecting. Thanks to the many devoted volunteers, this postage stamp program gives these hospital or wheelchair-bound veterans something to do, and something to look forward to. Trading duplicates also connects them with other collectors.

Recycle the stamps from your own mail to "brighten someone's day!" Leave about ½ inch border or envelope around the perforations of the stamp. Do not remove the stamp from the envelope it is glued to. The veterans prefer to do that themselves, its part of their fun. We send these stamps to the program in Virginia.



### **Pregnancy & Life Resources: We promote the Gift of Life!**

The board and staff of Pregnancy & Life Resources thanks you for your continued support! It has been another challenging year for all of us here in Illinois. Yet BLESSINGS from our Lord have still been given to us. We continue to help those in need through counseling, clothing and baby products. We see so many thankful women and children who depend upon us. We continue to see donations from different sources than our normal Fundraiser events. Please consider a donation to our center: the only such facility in the State of Illinois. You may drop your donations in the box in our narthex, or send your donations to WELS Lutherans for Life, 359 Cambridge Dr. Grayslake, IL 60030.

*Indeed, children are a heritage from the Lord. The fruit of the womb is a reward from him. Psalm 127:3*



### **Bible Class Snack Sign-Up**

We are once again looking for volunteers to bring snacks for Sunday Bible Class. This can be store bought or homemade. Please sign up in the narthex if you are willing to assist.  
Thanks so much. Group Life



**Save your bread tags** -GSLA is collecting plastic bread tags. Look for the labeled container by the school office. They will then be given to SCARCE who then donates them to Danielle Cares for Chairs. They use the donation to provide wheelchairs for children.



Shop with SCRIP is a wonderful program we offer with many benefits for the school and church

Contact Jen at [office@gsdg.org](mailto:office@gsdg.org) to get your Agreement Form

<https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=C58395F432896>



### **Good Shepherd Link Tree**

Events please scan and save we will update as events happen now and in the future.



# TIVOLI

## THE 1846 BLODGETT HOUSE & UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN D.G.

**MAY 1**

**Special Documentary Premiere!**

**Wednesday, May 1 — 6PM**

**6:00** Doors Open / Wurlitzer Performance

**6:30** Tivoli Theatre History Presentation

**6:50** 2024 Historian of the Year Award

**7:00** Documentary Premiere

**7:20** Intermission

**7:30** Tivoli Tours – **Sorry! The tours are sold out.**

Join us for the movie premiere of the new documentary **History Happens Here: The 1846 Blodgett House**, a film about the Blodgett family, their lives and home and the underground railroad and abolitionists in Downers Grove.

A bar/concessions stand will be open for the entire event.



**Jim Toth**  
2024 Historian  
of the Year



**Get Tickets Now!**

[www.dghistory.org/events](http://www.dghistory.org/events)



Downers Grove  
Historical Society

# LWMS SPRING RALLY

**SAT. APRIL 20, 2024**

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**THEME: BEWARE AND STAND FIRM!**

**TOPIC: CAMPUS MINISTRY**

**SPEAKER: REV. DANIEL LINDNER**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1610 MAIN ST**

**CRETE IL 60417**

**9:00am - Registration**

**9:30am - Rally Begins**

**12:15pm - Lunch (Provided)**

**1:30pm - Rally Ends**

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## **CHILDCARE**

To help Zion Lutheran plan, please email Elise at  
[elise.rosenbaum@gsdg.org](mailto:elise.rosenbaum@gsdg.org) if you will be needing childcare.

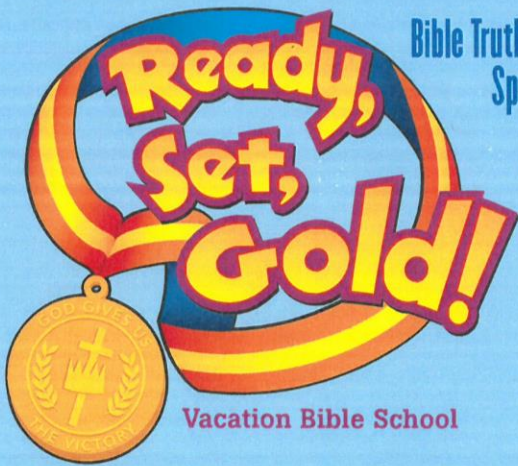




# JOIN THE TEAM

—see Jesus' victory!

Bible Truths • Bible Story Skits • Olympic-Style Games  
Sport Snacks • Crafts • Songs • Friends



Vacation Bible School

Dates: June 17 - 21, 2024

Times: 9:00 - 11:30 am

Phone: 630-852-5081

For ages: 3 - 10 years

Place: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Academy

525 63rd Street, Downers Grove, IL 60516

A special invitation for women only from Time of Grace!



**TIME OF GRACE** ▶▶

*Unbreakable* is a refreshing two-day break for Christian women to gather together, build friendships, and learn how to find respite from life's daily struggles by leaning on the God of amazing grace. With God at your side, you are unbreakable!

The event will include presentations and breakout sessions from remarkable and inspiring women as well as a devotion by special guest Pastor Jeremy Mattek. Over the two days, we will navigate topics such as:

**APRIL 26–27, 2024**  
**REGISTRATION FEE: \$199**

*Registration fee includes Friday reception and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. It does not include travel and lodging.*

Whatever season you are in, whether it's one of incredible happiness or the middle of a storm, we want to fill you with messages of hope and encouragement and equip you for wherever your faith journey takes you. Bring your sisters in Christ and plan to make new friends. We're all in this together!

Don't miss these speakers and the heartfelt messages they are preparing for you! Space is limited; register today!

**REGISTER NOW**

**THE INGLESIDE HOTEL**

2810 Golf Road | Pewaukee, WI 53072

**VISIT THE HOTEL WEBSITE**

Time of Grace has a block of double queen rooms set aside.

You will receive the link to the block after you register.

Your payment on the secure form above will help us create an engaging, gospel-filled women's event for you in April 2024!

**Time of Grace**

<https://www.timeofgrace.org>

[info@timeofgrace.org](mailto:info@timeofgrace.org)

414.562.8463

P.O. Box 301

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

US

<https://give.timeofgrace.org/timeofgrace/womens-event-2024>



## April: Usher Schedule

<b>31</b> Steve 8:00 am John 10:30 am	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Riley 5:30
<b>7</b> Paul 8:00 am Joseph 10:30 am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Casey 5:30 pm
<b>14</b> Dan 8:00 am Adam 10:30 am	15	16	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Erik 5:30 pm
<b>21</b> Ed 8:00 am Dale 10:30 am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> John 5:30 pm
<b>28</b> Bob 8:00 am Bill 10:30 am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Bob 5:30
<b>5</b> Steve 8:00 am Riley 10:30 am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Dale 5:30



## April : Altar Care Setup – Cleanup

<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6-Karen</b>
<b>7-Doris</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	13
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20-Debbie</b>
<b>21-Fran</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4-Karen</b>
<b>5-Inge</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>

## March: Greeter Schedule

<b>31</b> Bowen 8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 5:30 pm
<b>7</b> Bowen 8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5:30 pm
<b>14</b> 8:00 am 10:30 am	15	16	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 5:30 pm
<b>21</b> 8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:30 pm
<b>28</b> 8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7pm	<b>3</b> 2pm 7pm	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>

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# Serving in Worship

**Guest Pastor:** Jon Bergemann  
**Organist:** Casey Kippes  
**AV Team:** Bob Reichert, Joe Garetto, Kristen Reynolds, and Zach Dankert

**Contact Information**

Pastor Jon Bergemann

Office: 630.852.1519

Email: [pastor.bergemann@gsdg.org](mailto:pastor.bergemann@gsdg.org)

Admin Principal Barb Koch

Cell phone: 630.209.2242

School office 630.852.5081

Email: [bkoch@gsdg.org](mailto:bkoch@gsdg.org)

Church Secretary Jen Trow

Church office: 630.852.1519

School office: 630.852.5081

Cell phone: 630.399.3648

Office Email: [office@gsdg.org](mailto:office@gsdg.org)

**Worship Attendance in God's House**

03/16 (5:30) – 36

03/17 (8:00) – 31

03/17 (10:30) – 81

03/13 (7:00) – 53

Worship Total – 201

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR GOD'S WORK**

	Week Ending	Weekly Offering	YTD Offering	YTD Budget	% of Budget
Week 38	3/17/2024	\$2,875.00	\$395,383.71	\$364,000.00	104.8%



**Bible Class**

Sunday 9:15 am - 10:15 am Sanctuary and online

**Daily/Weekly Devotions – WELS**

*Subscribe at:*

[wels.net/serving-you/devotions/daily-devotions/](https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/daily-devotions/)

**Marriage Moments**

*Subscribe at:*

<https://welscongregationalservices.net/ministry-resources/wels-marriages/marriagemoments/>