

# 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 6 May 4/5, 2024

**Theme of the Day:** *Jesus' Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours*

The entirety of God's Word can be summed up in one word: love. God's Law is all about love. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..." and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37,39). The gospel is all about love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..." (John 3:16). From his compassion for the sick and broken, to his sacrificial death on the cross, to the peace he provided after his resurrection, Jesus was the perfect embodiment of love. Love is his business.

Therefore, love is our business too. The resurrection reality is that with the same supernatural power by which God raised Jesus from the dead, God now enables us to live a new life—one marked by radically selfless love. The motivation and ability to do this comes from seeing the endless love Christ has for us. We love only because he first loved us.

**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
April 6/7	The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace	Easter 2
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
<b>May 4/5</b>	<b>Jesus' Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours</b>	<b>Easter 6</b>
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>



### **Prayer Requests**

- Teacher Appreciation week is 5/6-5/10. Please think of our Good Shepherd Lutheran Academy teachers and our BLAST teachers in your prayers this week? Our teachers give so much of themselves for our kids. “Thank a teacher!” Sometimes a simple word of encouragement or acknowledgment is enough to fill a teacher’s heart!
- Gary Henriksen for healing after his surgery on Wednesday for a bowel obstruction.

### **Renovations at 601 House**

The Good Shepherd house at 601 63rd St. has been vacant since Ellen Zank moved last summer. The house is now in need of interior refurbishment. The MCC recently approved a budget to cover the necessary work (see attached file). This email provides the status of the work and outlines some areas where you may wish to help.

Several of the major items are well underway. The main bathroom has been completely stripped and the rebuild is moving along well. This work should be completed by the end of May. The plaster walls have been patched and sanded. About one half of the painting is complete. The kitchen cabinets have been stripped. New doors and drawer fronts have been ordered and should arrive within 10 days. The old frames are being refinished. The new doors and drawer fronts will be finished and installed. This work should also be done by the end of May. When these major items are complete, we will refinish the wood floors in the bedrooms, living room and hallways. The floor refinishing work has been contracted. We will also install a new LVT floor in the kitchen area. A new garage door has also been contracted.

Since much of this work will be self-performed, we have an opportunity to use several Thrivent Action Team grants (\$250 each) to help pay for some items. We have already used two grants, one for paint and one for light fixtures. Anyone who has a Thrivent account can apply for a grant. If you are able to make use of this program, please let me know, and I can provide the information you will need to apply for the grant. This should be done quickly since we will be buying much of the material in May. As we move along with this project, we will have opportunities for volunteer work. This will include miscellaneous painting, wood finishing, installing various purchased items, gutter caulking, cleaning, window washing, installing shelf liners, removing discarded items from the basement, and others. If you are interested in helping, please let me know ([sdanekas@comcast.net](mailto:sdanekas@comcast.net)) and I will try to organize the work. This a worthwhile project that will enhance the value of our property and will provide comfortable housing for Good Shepherd called workers.

Steve Danekas, Property Coordinator  
630-270-9482

### **Worship Survey**

Hello Good Shepherd Families,

As mentioned in the church services this weekend, we are asking for your input about the idea of combining our 2 services on Sundays to 1 church service. Please take a minute to answer a few questions in [this](#) link.

We greatly appreciate it!

In Christ,  
Rick Brands  
Worship Ministry Team Leader



We thank all who supported the GSLA Flower Fundraiser. We are happy to announce that you helped raise \$1,320 for the school!

We're also happy to announce that orders may be picked up in the church parking lot on May 22, from Noon - 5:30pm. Please bring something to protect your car in case the pots are wet/muddy. If you have questions, please call or text Debbie OMalley 630-309-2526.



### **GSLA Track Meet - Looking for Volunteers!**

On Saturday, May 11, GSLA is hosting a track meet and we are looking for help. Many hands make light (and efficient) work! If you are interested and able to help, please contact Mrs. Loduha through email or directly at school/church. We appreciate your support!

- Location: Walther Christian 900 Chicago Ave, Melrose Park, IL 60160
- Timing: 9am- approximately 1:30pm
- Areas we need help: concessions, ball throw event helpers, running event helpers/timers, score table calculators/helpers, ribbon organizers/writers
- Please contact: [elise.rosenbaum@gsdg.org](mailto:elise.rosenbaum@gsdg.org)
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E45AFA92CABFA7-49423977-track>



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. - [educmission@gsdg.com](mailto:educmission@gsdg.com)

### **Education Ministry contact**

**We would like to let everyone know the people that are currently working on our Education Ministry**

Paul Schoenbeck , Clint Daehnke, Tracy Raimer, Mark & Cindy Gunze, Scott Wiersum, Valerie Adegunleye, Bill Jaeger, Rodney Scott, Ivana Stamenkovic, Barb Koch, Kat Blumer, Pastor Bergemann

You can contact anyone on this committee at [education@gsdg.org](mailto:education@gsdg.org) if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer



### Teacher Appreciation Week

Did you know that May 6-10 is Teacher Appreciation Week?

We would like to help show our appreciation for the Teachers and Staff by giving them some support this week. If you can help in any way please sign up below.

Thank you for your continued support of GSLA

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E45AFA92CABFA7-49348865-teacher>



We would like to thank the women of our congregation that were able to take some time on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> to meet at Steven's Restaurant for the Women's Ministry Meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> location TBD.

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

## **LWMS NEWS**

### **Ladies of Good Shepherd**

You are all members of the **Lutheran Women's Missionary Society** as the church pays our membership dues.

Please take a few minutes after church to review the candidates for the **Lutheran Women's Missionary Society** International Board of Directors and vote. You will also vote for a Home and World mission offering project.

Information about the candidates and mission projects as well as ballots are located at the sign up table. Place ballots in the envelope provided.

You probably will not know the candidates but vote based on the information about them.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out a ballot. Ballots are due by May 18<sup>th</sup>.

United in Serving Jesus - Chris Herrmann, LWMS Reporter



### **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.

### **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.

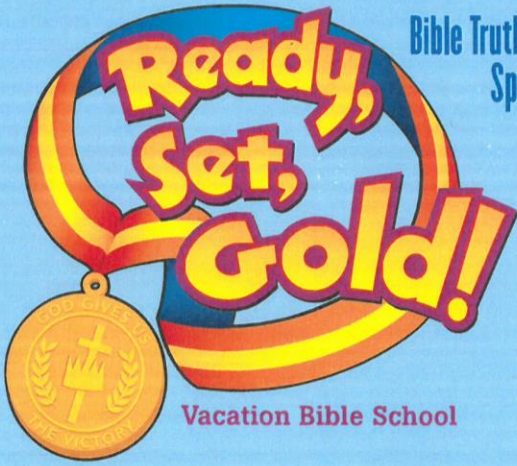
Bill Merchantz Good Shepherd President



# SO IN 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



### May: Usher Schedule

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



### May : Altar Care Setup – Cleanup

<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>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18-Anne</b>
<b>19-Susan</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</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>31</b>	<b>1-Sarah</b>
<b>2-Aggie</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>

### May: Greeter Schedule

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



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# Serving in Worship

**Pastor:** Jon Bergemann  
**Organist:** Casey Kippes  
**Cantor:** Caitlin 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

04/27 (5:30) – 77

04/28 (8:00) – 23

04/28 (10:30) – 61

Worship Total – 161

## WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR GOD'S WORK

	Week Ending	Weekly Offering	YTD Offering	YTD Budget	% of Budget
Week 42	4/14/2024	\$5,041.00	\$449,656.43	\$414,000.00	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://welscongregationalervices.net/ministry-resources/wels-marriages/marriagemoments/>