

# Shepherd's Staff



## G.S. Moves to Chromebooks in the Classroom

By: Megan H.

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- Pencil Patrol

Good Shepherd's junior high classes have used iPads as a learning tool for about five years, but starting in the 2018-2019 school year, the junior high students will no longer be using iPads. Good Shepherd is becoming a Google school and will be using Chromebooks in the classroom.

"They work better with Google products," states Mike Voss, one of Good Shepherd's technology advisors.

Over the past few years, Apple's iPads have proven themselves to be difficult to use in the classroom, especially when trying to connect with Google, which is the main reason why Good Shepherd is making this switch. This decision wasn't made on a whim; over the past few months faculty members have visited other schools, surveyed teachers and students, and have had many meetings. Once the information was gathered, it was delivered to the school board, where they then made the final decision.

Statistics show that this

choice is not an uncommon one. In fact, using Google to enhance the



schooling system is becoming a growing trend in America, making Google more popularly used in the education field compared to Apple.

"Next year's eighth grade will have the option to use their iPads, or to get a Chromebook. The policies will be updated over the summer," answered Mr. Voss when asked how Good Shepherd planned on integrating the Chromebooks.

Some students disagree with the school board's decision, while others agreed.

"An iPad can do more, and it is easier to use a touch screen," Carmen Swiatek, an eighth

grade student, shared. "On a chromebook, certain things wouldn't be available, such as Adobe Acrobat and iBooks. You also have to have internet access to do most things. iPads are also more portable and hold battery life. Over all an iPad has more to offer than a chromebook would."

Maggie Smith is another junior high student who agrees with the school's change in technology.

"There is no game temptation. In addition, most high schools use Chromebooks. Since they took computer class out of everyone's schedule, students need to know how to use a Chromebook for high school." Good Shepherd is always trying to improve and make adjustments to further their students' education, from making changes in schedules and in school management websites, to now changes in technology.

## Echoes of the Hammer

By: MaryAnn R.

On April 20 and 22, the third and fourth graders put on a musical in the Good Shepherd School gym.

This musical is something that the Third and Fourth graders have been doing for years. Mr. Stegman, the music director, the teachers, and some parents helped put together the props and helped the kids memorize lines. They had practiced almost every day for a week before they put on the musical.

They have been preparing it for quite a few months now. Mr.

Stegman said, "(We have



Martin Luther Hammering the 95 Theses to the Church Door

been working on it) definitely since January, probably before then".

The third graders were only singing, while the fourth graders sang and had acting parts.

Kate Mueller, a fourth grader said, "I'm Katie and a narrator (in the musical)". Many kids, like Kate, had more than one part. Adam Turner acted the part of Luther's older brother, Lucas Cranach (Luther's friend), and Emperor Charles V.

They did this certain musical because this past fall was the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It was a shorter way to explain Luther's life and all he did.

## Awards Banquet

By: Jenae W.

On May 22, there will be an Awards Banquet in the GSLS gym to reward the 5-8th grade students for academics, sports, music, and leadership.

The Awards Banquet is hosted by the 6th grade parents. They decorate the gym and order the food. The teachers and the principal, Mr. Mayhew, hand out the awards. The basketball, volleyball, cross country, track, and baseball coaches also hand out awards.

When Mr. Voss was asked why Good Shepherd puts on the Awards Banquet, he answered, "It is to recognize the accomplishments and talents of students." He was

also asked how the coaches decide which students are the MVPs. His response was, "The student's vote for the MVP's of their team." Khushi, an eighth grader in Mrs. Hasamear's homeroom was asked, "Why would you want to go to the Awards Banquet?" She answered, "It is a fun way to get together with our friends before graduation."

The Awards Banquet is an annual event that the students usually look forward to.

## The Annual 8th Grade Washington D.C. Class Trip By: Carson C.

The annual 8th grade Washington D.C trip is on May 12th - May 18th. The kids leave after Saturday night church on May 12th and arrive home on the morning of May 18th. This trip is intended to give the eighth graders a closer look at our nation's capital and its history. "I still have a lot of fun going on the trip. I still always see new things and meet new people." said Mr. Rincker, the eighth grade teacher.

*How do they raise enough money?* people might ask. The eighth graders worked at the Italian Fest in Collinsville, Illi-



nois, they sell pies to family members, neighbors, or friends' parents. They also sold entertainment books to people. There was also

money donated to them by one of Mr. Rincker's friends.

Logan W. and 8th grade student says, "I am very excited to go on the trip. I can't wait to see all the monuments and the White House. I want to learn more about our nation's history." Students in the past have highly enjoyed this trip, and it should be a fun experience for all of the students.

## Major Conference Meeting: Higher Things! By: Sam S.

*Higher Things spans over three days. There will be about 15 church services and 5 breakout sessions dedicated to a topic that pertains to the Bible.*

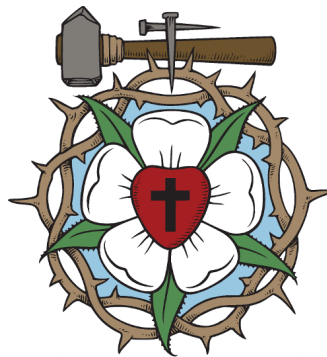
On July 10 about 20 students and members of GSLCS are going to one of the four main Conferences in Carbondale, IL, set up by Higher Things, a recognized service group of the Lutheran Church Missouri Senate.

The organization of Higher things was made by members of the LCMS asked to start this service organization. They now have many retreats with 4 major conferences over the summer.

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cated to a topic that pertains to the Bible.

There is also



"Lots of crazy free time activities," said Mr. Stegman, "and in past years, a buffet." Gabe Stuckey said, "The food was amazing two years ago."

This is the 18th Higher Things Conference that has been done,

and they will continue to teach 7th graders through college students and adults about God.

Over the last couple

## The Change in the Church

By: Claire L.

of months, members of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, Illinois, have been working on modifying the balcony to help with acoustics. "The balcony will receive improvements so that choir members can hear themselves better, choir members can hear the instruments better, and instrumentalists can hear instrumentalists better, and as a whole, musicians will be able to do a better job serving their neighbors downstairs in the leadership of their music," Chris Loemker said.

By remodeling the balcony, a number of improvements are going to happen. Mr. Stegman tells us what those things are.

"The biggest things that are going to happen," said Mr. Stegman, "are the removal of the carpet, and we will replace the carpet with a hard surface flooring. There will be diffusion panels built and installed on the side walls of the balcony, which will eliminate the flutter echo which we currently have, and make the sounds more intelligible. The pews are going to be removed and replaced with chairs that are already being used in the music room. The students really seem to like them so far. The students are

sad the chairs are going to be leaving the music room. We are also replacing the glass railing with a spindle type railing with metal bars. Right now, the glass blocks sound from getting down to the congregation, not so



much if you're playing a trumpet while standing up, and the organ is up high, so that also carries well, but if you're playing the cello and sitting down or if you're short kid, the sound bounces back and hits the carpet."

This project will be completed sometime in the middle of the summer of 2018. "It depends when the flooring company can come out and do their work. We kind of have to

wait until they're able to do it."

Mr. Loemker said, "In the Lutheran worship service, music is second only to the spoken and proclaimed word and its importance. So, we begin services with music, we have music all throughout the liturgy, we have music for the hymn of the day, we have instrumental music for before the service and after the service and while the offering is collected, so, because music is so important to the service, anything that happens in order to make that music better will benefit everyone in attendance, not just the people upstairs." There will be some changes to the balcony's appearance, too. "The only physical changes that will be visual from downstairs will be some additional wood paneling on the wall that is of special design to help bounce the sound around in a different fashion upstairs, and the glass railing will be replaced with an arch railing that is in similar design to the communion rail down front."

All of these improvements will definitely help the Church. "This will make it easier for people to hear the word of God."

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## Easter—Christ Is Arisen!

By: Lars G.

On April 1, the fifty day season of Easter began. Shortly before, on Good Friday, the sinless Jesus Christ, true man and true God died upon the cross at Golgotha. After three days, upon Easter Sunday, He rose from the grave! By his death and resurrection He conquered Satan, sin, and death for our sake!

According to Mr. Stegman, "Easter is too big, too profound to observe only in one day, though sadly, the American culture, both religious and secular has now reduced it to only one day and you probably get funny looks from people when you talk about it being a season. The actual Resurrection probably took only a few seconds, not even a whole day.

Easter is about Jesus rising from the dead and then sharing this Resurrection, first with Mary Magdalene, then His Apostles, and to 500 men, not counting women and children before He ascended into heaven exactly 40 days later. Finally, after 50 days, "the Comforter," as Christ says, the Holy Spirit comes on Easter to "end" Easter, but really, every Sunday is a mini Easter when we proclaim Christ's death and Resurrection until He comes."

As Mr. Stegman says, even after Easter is over, we do not stop the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. We celebrate His death and resurrection every Sunday, the day on which

He rose, when we meet to worship, hear His Word, receive forgiveness through His Sacrament, and sing hymns to proclaim his glorious death and resurrection for our sake. We celebrate the resurrection daily when we pray and reflect on our Baptism. We know, that since we are baptized into Him, we will surely share in his resurrection on the final day. Saint Paul writes in Romans 6:4: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."





## 2018 Track Team

By: Megan J.

Good Shepherd's track team is the smallest it's been in a few years. We have two wonderful coaches Mr. Krueger, who deals with field events; and Mr. Voss, who deals with running events. Mr. Voss is a wonderful coach; he is very supportive, and he is always concerned about the players ability and how healthy they are. He deals with setting up all the meets. That must be so stressful! Yet, he is still always so happy and always thinking about others.

Mr. Krueger is working the field events and with the students competing in the field events. One person participat-



ing in the shot put field event is Emma Burton. When asked if she thinks it is difficult to throw the shot put ball, she responded, "If you don't have the right form and don't throw it correctly." She enjoys shot

put very much, regardless if she qualifies for state or not.

Our track team strives to show good sportsmanship and Christian living. We hope that we rub off or show other people, Christian or not, to always help and support other people. God's word is in our hearts in the toughest times and the easiest times. We hope as you watch our track team run at our track meets you notice that and give it a try yourself.

## LSA Track Meet

By: Ellie M.

On May 19th and 20th, athletes from Lutheran schools in Illinois will all go to River Forest for a track meet.

The athletes have the opportunity to go to this meet by running under a certain time in their events at other meets, or under a certain distance or height for field events.

People come to this meet to have some friendly competition, and

maybe to break a record! Mr. Voss, track coach for

food."

There are currently around 12 kids from Good Shepherd attending the meet.



7th Graders Jordan G., Lillie C., and Ellie M.

Good Shepherd loves coming to this meet. "I love spending time with the students and parents, and the food. I love the

*Mr. Voss, track coach for Good Shepherd, loves coming to this meet. "I love spending time with the students and parents, and the food. I love the food."*

## The Annual Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School Golf Outing

### By: Declan G.

The annual G.S.L.C.S. Golf Outing is a school fundraising event in which anyone can participate. Mr. Mayhew, one of several people who help put this big event together says, "This fundraiser helps raise money for the school when people pay to golf 18 holes, purchase tickets, drinks, mulligans, and sponsor signs at each hole. About 80 people divided into 20 teams play 18 holes of golf." There are prizes that are donated to the golf outing that people can win. People need to fill out a form in order to participate.

*"This fundraiser helps raise money for the school when people pay to golf 18 holes, purchase tickets, drinks, mulligans, and sponsor signs at each hole." —Mr. Mayhew*

The max number of players is 144 players according to the 2017 golf outing flyer, so join as soon as possible. The official date of the Golf Outing is July 14, 2018.

Another member of the golf outing committee, Mr. Graney, says, "My favorite part of the golf outing is fellowship and being able to organize it and make everyone have a good time." He also was asked, *Is there anything that you want to change?* "I'd want more outreach to people that aren't members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School. By doing this, it

would help bring people to Good Shepherd Church and School and bring people to Christ as we are called in the Bible."

Make your calendars for this event and gather your team members together now! Please contact the school office, if you have any further questions.

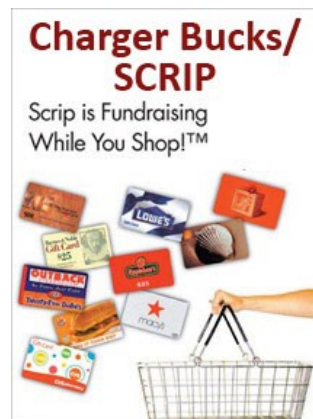
## Charger Bucks

By: Marlaina G.

Have you ever heard of or used Charger Bucks/Scrip? Did you know for every dollar you spend, you get a dollar back? Buy many different gift cards, and in return, it benefits you and the school. You can apply the money you get back toward your child's tuition at G.S., or you can donate it to another family, or to the G.S. general fund. Start now by looking into the website. If you go to G.S. church, you'll see the Scrip table on Sunday mornings between the two services in the connector hallway. If you have a child attending G.S.L.S, you can purchase Scrip after school on Fridays.

Scrip is a program where schools purchase gift certificates, or Scrip, from popular retailers at a

decent discount. You can buy these gift cards for face value. Then a per-



centage of that cost will go back to you and to the school. For example, if you need a gas card, an iTunes card, or a Walmart card, you can purchase gift cards from Good Shepherd. Abbey Goetter, a student at Good Shepherd was asked, "Do you and your

family purchase Scrip from Good Shepherd?" In response she said, "Yes, my mom and I purchase the gift cards frequently throughout the year."

In conclusion, you can use Charger Bucks in multiple ways throughout the week! Learn more about Charger Bucks by visiting "<https://www.shopwithscrip.com>"!

## Why Shouldn't We Have iPads

By: Zion T.

In the recent years, technology has been used in many schools to help students learn in different ways. Not many schools realize that technology and iPads can also be harmful.

For example, staring at a screen all day can hurt students' eyes and make them addicted to technology. Many schools think that technology is always the way to go, but hard copies and books still work just as fine. Why do students need iPads when there are computers in the back of the room? Plus, families have to pay an average of \$500 just to have an iPad. It already costs a lot of money to go to this school.

Matthew H. says,

*Matthew H. says, "We already have Chromebooks, so iPads are not absolutely necessary. Some people use their iPads for other purposes other than school."*

"We already have Chromebooks, so iPads are not ab-



solutely necessary. Some people use their iPads for other purposes other than school."

Dom L. says he thinks we shouldn't have iPads because, "It damages our eyes and that is bad for young kids." He thinks we shouldn't use iPads until we are in 8th grade because 8th graders are more mature, and they won't do as many bad things on their iPads.

Jake W. says, "We should only have iPads in some classes or only when we do good things or have good grades."

## The Pencil Patrol Strikes Again!

By: Eli L.

At GSLCS, mechanical pencils are not allowed. The lead of these pencils break off and fall to the floor, where they are stepped on and smeared all over the tiles. The pencils also make desks dirty, and these smudges are difficult to clean. Even though mechanical pencils are a problem, many students bring and use mechanical pencils anyway without permission.

To combat this problem, a group of eighth grade students have come together to form a group known the PP (Pencil Patrol). These students work tirelessly every day to keep mechanical pencils out of the classroom. They do not use mechanical pencils at school, where these pencils are against the rules, and encourage other students to do the same. If

they find a mechanical pencil or lead on the floor or left behind in a desk, they immediately bring it to a teacher or dispose of it in the proper receptacle. As one eighth grade student



said, "These responsible students should be given more recognition, as mechanical pencils are bad and people who discriminate against the PP should be locked up. As a unnamed classmate said, "No power

or authority has been given to them (the Pencil Police), but because of the PP, many students have stopped using mechanical pencils. Another student said, "It's a waste of time and mechanical pencils are people, too." This in fact is wrong. Pencils are not people, and when used irresponsibly can make a mess. Remember mechanical pencils are illegal. Although this is a sensitive subject with much drama surrounding it, the PP always observe, report, and then react. Mechanical pencils are banned for a good reason, and the PP hope they stay that way.

# Charger Change Drive

By: Anna R.

Throughout the span of January 8-19, 2018, Good Shepherd students and faculty participated in an activity called the change drive. The change drive is when jars for each grade is placed in the school lobby, and change is used to fill up the jars and earn prizes.

The students and faculty can bring in change to fill up their grade level jar. This is used to raise money and allow a competition of who can bring the most money in.

Many students in the school actually do not know why there is a change drive. When asked why they think we do the change drive, eighth grade student, Khushi Jariwala, responded with, "I think it is so that the school gets money."

When asked the same question, a fifth grade student, Jacob Kober, responded with, "I think it is for the auction or the trivia night." Principal, Robert Mayhew, gave us the real answer when he said, "The change drive is used to help with the school auction. It is a kickoff to start the auction."

Khushi was also asked if it was more fun to participate in the change drive when she was younger or older. She answered by saying, "I would say younger because we would not care about spending our change just for free dress days. Being older, you don't really want to spend your money

for this."

She was then asked if she thought the change drive was beneficial to the school. She said, "Yes, because those who spend the money get to enjoy the special days. The school can also have more money to improve the facilities we have today."

Jacob said that he has participated in the change drive before. He said his favorite part was,



"If you win, you get free dress days or pizza parties."

He was also asked if he would still enjoy it when he was older. He responded, "I don't know because I don't think it is worth spending your money when you are older."

Finally, to get more details, Mr. Mayhew was asked what the money was used for. He said, "Some of the money is used to pay for some of the auction items. The rest of the money is put into the auction."

The next question was how much money we have made in

the past and how much we made this year. He responded, "The amount usually ranges close to \$2,000. 2012-13 was a good year because we made \$2,764.21, which is \$8.84 per student. The total amount this year was \$1,867.41. This averages to \$5.95 per student."

His view on those amounts were, "It is a good amount of money. For the change drive going on for only nine years, we have made about \$18,000."

There are different prizes you can earn from the change drive. There are three lines located on the jars.

The first line is the lowest, and if you reach it, you could earn a free pants day. This means the students could wear any type of pants with a standardized top.

The second line is in the middle of the jar. If you reached that line, you could earn a pajama day. The last line was the highest.

If you reached that line, you got a free dress day. The grade level that had the most money earned the biggest prize of all as well.

They would earn an ice cream party. The prizes usually change throughout each year.



## About Shepherd's Staff Writers

This edition of *Shepherd's Staff* was written, edited and published by Good Shepherd Lutheran School's Journalism 101 class, which is composed of seventh and eighth grade students. The newspaper is a culminating project of this semester-long course. During this class, students analyzed many local and national news articles. They learned the key components of a news story, the importance of a good lead, and the value of citizen interviews.

Students were involved in every step of producing and publishing this newspaper. In addition to writing the stories, they also determined the newspaper layout and the arrangement of the articles.