



Good Shepherd Charger News

“Be Brave” Deuteronomy 31:6

All School Newsletter
December 12, 2025

Charger Headlines...

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 14

- 1st & 2nd Gr. and 7th & 8th Gr. sing in 8:00 a.m. church
- 3rd and 4th Gr. and 5th & 6th Gr. Sing in 10:30 a.m. church service

Monday, December 15

- ALUMNI NIGHT
- Boys Basketball Home AC vs Staunton/Bethalto 6:00 p.m.

Tues., December 16 - Thurs., Dec. 18

- Gingerbread House

Tuesday, December 16

- Boys Basketball AC @ Holy Cross, Collinsville 6:00 p.m.
- Girls Basketball C Team @ Holy Cross Collinsville 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17

- Chapel Service Gr. 3-8, 8:25 a.m.
- Chapel Service PK-Gr 2 8:55 a.m.
- Last day to bring hat, scarf, & gloves

Thursday, December 18

- Boys Basketball D Team @ Hamel 5:00 p.m.
- Girls Basketball AD @ St Paul Hamel 6:00 p.m.

Friday, December 19

- End of 2nd Quarter

For more information:
gslcs.org/calendars



Alumni Night

This Monday, December 15th is our school’s annual Alumni Night. The Boys Basketball “A” team will play Staunton/Bethalto about 7:00 p.m. The Boys “D” team will play at 6:00 p.m. We welcome all alumni and look forward to your return to GSLS! The band will play and will include any alum or family who wants to join them. All will be recognized during half time of the “A” Game. High school freshmen are encouraged to call the office 618-344-3153 or email ncluck@gslcs.org if you plan to attend.

Hat, Scarf, and Gloves Collection

We have **3 more days** left to collect warm hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for those who need them in our communities. **Wednesday, December 17th** is the last day to donate. Please add your gifts to the Christmas trees either in the ECC or School entrance! Thank you for your generosity!

Peer Tutoring

There will be **NO Peer Tutoring next Thursday, December 18th**. Peer Tutoring will resume after Christmas break on Thursday, January 8th.

Gingerbread House

Parents, we need your help on December 16-17. Please use this link to sign up to help students shop for gifts for family members:
<https://signup.com/go/hLWstMX>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rachel Pennington in the church office 618-344-3153 or call or text her 573-275-0557. **Also, donations of tissue paper** for the gift bags would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the school office.

Lane Closures on Beltline Road December through March

See announcement from IDOT following the newsletter. Lane closures will begin on Monday, December 15th. Please adjust your plans accordingly so your student(s) can arrive and depart from school on time.

Change of Date for Grandparents & Special Friends Day and the 3rd & 4th Grade Musical

Please mark your calendars with the new dates for this school year’s annual Grandparents and Special Friends Day and the 3rd and 4th Grade Musical. Both events will now be held on **Friday, April 10th**. We apologize for any inconvenience this change may create for you and your family. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Charger Headlines Continued...

Pastor's Corner

This Sunday we will be diving into these words from Isaiah: "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins." The warfare here is the war for your conscience. We will be looking at the warfare that is taking place in your conscience and how that warfare is brought to an end by Christ.



End of 2nd Quarter

The 2nd Quarter ends on **Friday, December 19th**. Reports cards will be emailed to parents on **Wednesday, January 7th**.

Domino's Pizza Fundraiser is Back

Beginning **Tuesday, January 6th**, every student will be given the opportunity to sell Domino's "Slice the Price" cards. The cards sell for \$20 each and allows you to buy a large pizza at menu price and get a large pizza FREE. Buy any amount of large pizzas, get the same amount FREE, mix and match, any type and flavors! Order in-app or online for carryout or delivery! The card is good for one full year, and can be used as often as you like. Good Shepherd will receive \$10 for every \$20 card sold! Our goal is to raise \$7,000, which will give each participating student **5 Free Dress Days!** Sales incentives, order form and link to register online will be given to the students on Monday, January 5th.

Annual Fund Drive – Year-End Giving

As the year draws to a close, we invite our Good Shepherd families to prayerfully consider a gift to our Annual Fund Drive. Your support strengthens our ministry to children and helps us continue sharing Christ's love each day. Gifts made by December 31 may qualify as tax-deductible contributions, blessing both your family and our school. Thank you for your generosity and for partnering with us in this mission. May the Lord continue to guide and provide for our Good Shepherd family. See attachment.



In Our Prayers This Week

Each week this school year, the faculty will be praying for the students and their families. Next week we will be praying for Ellie B., Sadie B., Charlotte E., Evie G., Avena G., Ella G., Gigi H., Nathan H., Pierce H., and Bo H.

Please join us in prayer.

Something to Consider...

The Joy of Christ's Coming – The Christmas Promise
Christmas celebrates the fulfillment of God's greatest promise—the Savior born for us in Bethlehem. In our classrooms and worship services, we point our students to the heart of the Christmas story: God becoming flesh to redeem His people. Our students will share this Good News through their Christmas programs, music, readings, and acts of service. As they recount the angel's message, the shepherds' joy, and the humility of the manger, they remind us that Christ's birth is good news for all people—young and old alike.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." — Luke 2:11

Closing Prayer:

Gracious Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Let the joy of His birth fill our homes and our school, and help us share His love with all we meet. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessings!

Robert Mayhew, Principal

The purpose of Good Shepherd Lutheran School is to provide each student with a quality Christian Education. We recognize that this begins with the premise that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and in Him we have eternal life. The curriculum and all activities are developed around this premise.

Charger Headlines Continued...

2026-27 GSLS Reenrollment Begins January 1st

On January 1, 2026 continuous enrollment begins for all students in Preschool-Grade 7. Your family and student information from this school year will be rolled over into the upcoming school year. Please DO NOT create a new application.

Also, **beginning January 1st, parents need to sign into your FACTS Family Portal**, on the lefthand side click "Family", then click "Family Home". Under your photo at the bottom of the page you will see a box titled, "Online Filing Cabinet". Click "Family Demographic Form" to update addresses, phone numbers, emergency contacts, financial information and to choose the required (2) volunteer options.

Parents please note, should you choose not to re-enroll your student(s), you must notify the school no later than January 16th to avoid the Non-Refundable fee being withdrawn from your account on January 20th. If you have any trouble logging in to your FACTS account/portal, please contact Mrs. Osborn in the office, 618-344-3153 or josborn@gslcs.org. Please look for an email from Mr. Mayhew next week which will include a ReEnrollment Timeline, fees and tuition for the 2026-27 school year.

Pee-Wee Boys Basketball

Boys in grades 2-4 are eligible to participate in the Pee-Wee program. The form with details of the program is being sent home with your student today. Please complete and **return the form** to Mrs. Cross by **Monday, January 5th**. Additional forms are available in the school office and a copy follows this newsletter. The goals of the program are to teach introductory skills, the importance of being a team player and sharing. Help is needed. Please contact Mrs. Cross to volunteer - rcross@gslcs.org. **Practices begin Saturday, January 10th.**

Student Teacher in 4th Grade

We're excited to share some great news with you! On **Monday, January 5th**, Mrs. Rebecca Fick will be joining Mrs. Batty in our 4th-grade classroom as a Student Teacher. She shared the following information: "I'm completing my master program at Concordia University Chicago in May 2026. I am a mom of two boys and a member of Trinity Lutheran in Hoffman. I'm excited to do my student teaching in a Lutheran school where I can support students to grow in their Christian faith." We are thrilled to welcome her into our school and look forward to the energy, care, and enthusiasm she will bring to the classroom.

Chapel Service

Our last chapel service in 2025 will be on **Wednesday, December 17th**. Parents are welcome to attend.

Raise Right - Scrip Program

Scrip Gift cards will be available for purchase in the connecting hallway between church services on December 14th and 21st. Great gift ideas for family, friends, teachers, coworkers, everyone on your list. Download the RaiseRight app and check out all the options. [RaiseRight.com](https://www.RaiseRight.com)

Tuition Scholarships

Scholarship applications for LESA's Building Blocks Assistance and Good Shepherd Church and School will be available **January 1st** through FACTS. (See flyer following for all the details.)

Charger Headlines Continued...

Young Authors

Students in 2nd, 4th, and 6th grade are required to participate in writing and illustrating a book as part of the Young Authors program. Kindergarten through 8th grade students are invited to get creative and also write a book. Books are due by **Friday, January 23, 2026**, unless otherwise stated by your child's teacher. Any questions may be directed to your student's teacher. Happy writing! (See flyer)

Annual Benefit Auction

The 2026 Annual Benefit Auction for Good Shepherd Lutheran School will be on **Saturday, March 21st**. While you are doing your Christmas shopping, you might want to consider a donation to the Auction. The following is a list of themes for each grade.

PK3 – American Girl / Lego Basket

Ideas: American Girl Doll, Doll accessories (furniture, clothes, styling kit), American Doll books, Lego sets, Lego table, Lego organizer

Larger Item Idea: Parents can chip in together for a larger/more unique Lego set or go in together for a larger dollar mount for American Girl Store Gift Card.

PK4 – Local Staycation Basket

Larger Item Idea: Parents can chip in together for gift cards to experiences in Grafton, IL

Kdg – Family Fun Basket

Ideas: gift cards to local attractions: Edisons, Trampoline Park, Children's Museums, Magic House, City Museum, Top Golf

Larger Item Idea: Parents can chip in together for larger quantity gift cards.

1st –Disney Themed Basket

Ideas: All things you need for a day at a Disney Park. Disney theme: bag, backpack, water bottles, lanyards, Mickey Ears, autograph book

Larger Item Idea: Parents can chip in together for a Disney Store Gift Card.

2nd – Postcard Cabin Getaway

Ideas: Items needed for a quiet cozy getaway: snacks, books, games.

Larger Item Idea: Parents can chip in together for a gift card for a 3-night stay

3rd - 4th of July/Patriotic Basket

Ideas: Red, White, and Blue Items, Grill accessories, Butcher Gift Card,

Larger Item Idea: Parents can chip in together for a color themed Yeti Cooler

4th – Tech Bundle Basket

Ideas: headphones, Bluetooth speaker, Fortnite/Roblox Gift card

Larger Item Idea: Parents can chip in together for Beats products

5th – Water Fun Basket

Ideas: Water park passes; Beach Bag, Cooler

6th – Wine & Dine Basket

Ideas: Red and White wine, gourmet snacks, charcuterie board, gift card to local restaurants

7th – Golf Basket

Ideas: Top Golf gift card, Park North gift card, X- Golf, Dicks/Golf Galaxy gift card

8th –Good Shepherd Fan Basket

Chairs, Wagon, Cooler, Tumblers, Blanket

Larger Item Idea: Parents can chip in together for a Bogg Bag



State of Illinois
JB Pritzker, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Gia Biagi, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 9, 2025

CONTACT:
Joseph Monroe 618.346.3252
Craig Poettker 618.346.3279

Madison County: Lane Closures on Beltline Road December through March

COLLINSVILLE – The Illinois Department of Transportation today announced lane restrictions will be encountered on Beltline Road between Johnson Hill Road and Kingsbury Court beginning, Monday, December 15, weather permitting. Message boards, signing, channelizing devices, and concrete barrier will be utilized on Beltline Road to direct 2-way traffic through the work area. Access to Carnation Drive will remain available from the westbound lanes of Beltline Road during stage 1 of the project. These lane restrictions are necessary to perform slope repairs on Beltline Road. This work is expected to continue through March 2026.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equipment.

For IDOT District 8 updates, follow us on the social media platform X at [@IDOTDistrict8](#) or view area construction details on IDOT's [traveler information map](#) on [GettingAroundIllinois.com](#).

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Good Shepherd Lutheran School

1300 Belt Line Road ♦ Collinsville, Illinois 62234

School: (618) 344-3153 ♦ Fax: (618) 344-3156

www.gslcs.org

Dear Parents, Friends, Supporters and Alumni,

Good Shepherd Lutheran School has been blessed to provide quality Christian education for more than 41 years. This ministry has been sustained by the faithful support of our families, congregation, and community. In addition to meeting our regular operational needs, an Annual Fund allows us to directly enhance our students' experience by supporting additional educational programs, resources, and materials that fall outside the regular school budget.

Your generous gift can make an immediate impact in countless ways. It can help expand STEM resources, enhance classroom technology, update gym scoreboards, and add video equipment for livestreamed events. It can support outdoor play with additions like a Gaga Ball pit, and provide teachers with the tools and materials they need to better meet the diverse needs of their students. Every contribution empowers our staff to go above and beyond—strengthening the learning experience for every child at Good Shepherd.

How can we reach our goal?

Goal: \$20,000

<u>Number of Gifts</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
2	\$2,000	\$4,000
4	\$1,000	\$4,000
8	\$500	\$4,000
16	\$250	\$4,000
20	\$100	\$2,000
30	\$50	\$1,500
Many	Under \$50	<u>\$500</u>

Gifts to the **Annual Educational Fund** are fully tax-deductible. On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, we sincerely thank you for your generosity and your prayers. May the Lord bless you with the joy and peace of knowing that your support helps advance His work here at Good Shepherd.

God's Blessings,

Robert Mayhew
Principal

Rob Pickerell
School Board President

Andrew Packer
Pastor

Andrew Gray
Pastor



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Contribution Form:

Levels:

Gold Level: \$5,000 +

Silver Level: \$2,000- \$4,999

Bronze Level: \$1,000-1,999

Major Donor: \$250-\$999

Contributor: Up to \$249

Name: (as it should appear on our donation report) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:

\$2,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$_____

Please mark all categories you would like to be listed under in the donation report:

- Parent Grandparent Parishioner Alumni Business Faculty & Staff
 Memorial (This gift was made in memory of _____)
 Prayer (I am unable to give at this time but will keep Good Shepherd in my prayers)
 I wish for my gift to remain anonymous

Please make checks payable to Good Shepherd. In the memo line please write: Annual Educational fund. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

We thank you for your generosity and support!
Blessings – Robert Mayhew – Principal

A Mission of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



K-8TH GRADE TUITION ASSISTANCE

ABOUT LESA

Through generous donors and fundraising events, we provide tuition assistance to qualifying K-8th grade Lutheran elementary students.

DO YOU QUALIFY?

Yes, if your student is enrolled and at least 10% of income is used to cover the cost of a family's K-8 net tuition (including other financial aid, such as MO Scholars).

Late applications are reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the summer.

LESA's website: www.lesastl.org

QUESTIONS?



MAUREEN GERSMAN
314-200-0790
MGERSMAN@LESASTL.ORG



FACTS PARENT HELP LINE
1-866-412-4367

REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete application in FACTS
 - **Deadline: April 10**
 - <https://tinyurl.com/LESA-App>
2. Submit required documents
 - 2025 - 1040 tax return (entire packet)
 - 2025 - W2
 - nontaxable income (SNAP, etc)
3. Application is complete by **April 30**

AWARD NOTIFICATION

Families will be emailed of award or denial once their application has been reviewed.
1st round of review - Emailed by May 22

APPLY BY: APRIL 10, 2026

LESA'S MISSION
EQUIPPING FAMILIES, LUTHERAN SCHOOLS,
AND FAITH COMMUNITIES FOR DYNAMIC,
CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION

**Good Shepherd Lutheran School
Boys Pee-Wee Basketball 2025-2026**

Dear Parents,

The time for Pee-Wee registration is here. Our Boys Pee-Wee program will run during the winter months again this year. We will start Saturday, January 10th. Boys in grades 2-4 are eligible to participate in this program. The goals of the Pee-Wee Program are as follows:

- 1) Introduce the boys to the game of basketball
- 2) Teach introductory skills
- 3) Teach the importance of sharing and team play
- 4) Enjoy a GREAT game.

Parents are a large reason for the growth of the program over the past few years. When you register your child, please consider assisting at practice on any of the dates. A basic knowledge of the game and love for children are the requirements. We will use team play to teach the children, which means we are in need of parents who could take charge of a team and make most of the practices. If you are not available for all of the practices, we will still use you on the days you are able to help.

Please fill out the attached form and return it to Mrs. Cross by Monday, January 5, 2026. It is important to meet this deadline in order for the necessary planning to begin. Please contact me at rcross@gslcs.org with any questions or concerns.

*****We need a parent or two to be the person in charge at the Saturday practices. I will make sure things are ready but I will not always be able to be there. Please consider this request and let me know as soon as possible.***

See you on the COURT!

‘Be Brave’

Mrs. Cross and Ms. Morwick

Jan. 10	Grades 2-4 9:00-10:15
Jan. 17	Grades 2-4 9:00-10:15
Jan. 24	NO PRACTICE
Jan. 31	Grades 2-4 9:00-10:15
Feb. 7	Grades 2-4 9:00-10:15
Feb. 14	Grades 2-4 9:00-10:15
Feb. 21	Grades 2-4 9:00-10:15
Feb. 24	GAME NIGHT 6:30



My child, _____ (Grade: _____), has my permission to participate in the Boys Pee Wee Basketball Program this winter.

I am available to assist at the practices. ____ yes ____ no

Parent Name (Print) Date

E-mail: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Name: _____

Phone: _____



Good Shepherd students are invited to showcase their literary talents at the 35th Annual Young Authors' Conference, hosted by the Regional Office of Education of Madison County. This prestigious event celebrates our young writers while supporting educators in enhancing students' reading and writing skills. Students won't want to miss this chance to join fellow authors, share their creativity, and be recognized for their literary achievements!

About the Conferences

- Manuscripts are not judged at the conferences
- Children enjoy the writings of others
- Students meet "real" authors
- Limited number of attendees: 5 for the district conference, up to 2 for the state conference
- All submitted manuscripts will be displayed at Good Shepherd
- Student recognition given during chapel for all participants

Parent Involvement

Parents can encourage their children by:

- Helping brainstorm ideas from experiential background
- Assisting in expressing ideas in writing (especially younger children)
- Suggesting ideas for illustrations, story content, and book jackets
- Being enthusiastic!

What Can Children Write?

- Creative short stories
- Collection of original poetry
- Rewritten stories
- "Polished" stories from school assignments or journals

Manuscript Requirements

- Jacket of substantial quality with secure pages
- Jacket illustration, title, and author's name
- Title page with book title, author, fictitious publishing company, and copyright date
- Dedication page
- Three or more illustrations by the child (optional for grades 5-8)
- Dictated books may be typed or handwritten by an adult but in the student's language
- Optional author's page about the student

Manuscript Due Date: January 23, 2026