



Good Shepherd Charger News

"Be Brave" Deuteronomy 31:6

All School Newsletter
December 19, 2025

Charger Headlines...

Calendar of Events

Friday, December 19

- End of 2nd Quarter
- AC Girls and AC Boys Basketball @ St. Boniface, Edwardsville

Sunday, December 21

- Preschool & Kdg. students sing in church - choose 8:00 or 10:30 am

Monday, Dec. 22-Fri., Jan 2

- NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break

Monday, January 5

- All Classes Resume Preschool - Gr 8

Tuesday, January 6

- Girls Basketball AD Home vs Staunton/Bethalto 6:00 p.m.
- Boys Basketball AD vs. Staunton/Bethalto 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 7

- Chapel Service Gr. 3-8, 8:25 a.m.
- Chapel Service PK-Gr 2 8:55 a.m.

Wed., January 7-Sun., January 11

- Boys Basketball B Team Holy Cross Collinsville Tournament TBA
- Girls Basketball B Team Holy Cross Collinsville Tournament TBA

Sunday, January 11

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

For more information:

gslcs.org/calendars



Our Thanks and Prayers for You

The faculty and staff wish you and your family a healthy and safe Christmas and New Year! May your celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, be blessed with joy, peace, and good health. We also want to sincerely thank you for your amazing generosity of delicious food, cards, gifts, party supplies, and volunteer time given throughout the year. Your support is a gift to us!

End of 2nd Quarter

The 2nd Quarter ends TODAY. 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.)

Raise Right - Scrip Program

Gift cards will be available for purchase in the connecting hallway between church services this **Sunday, December 21st**. Pick up your last minute gift for family, friends, teachers, coworkers, everyone on your list. Download the RaiseRight app and check out all the possibilities.

RaiseRight.com

Charger Headlines Continued...

Pastor's Corner

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."

At Christmas we rejoice that our Lord Jesus Christ came down to His creation. He became man, born in Bethlehem, to save His people from their sins. John the Baptist proclaimed His coming, and the whole world rejoices at His birth. On the last Sunday of Advent, we gather to hear this good news and to look forward with joy to the celebration of our Lord's Nativity. We would love to have you join us as we rejoice together in the birth of Christ. Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 11:00 p.m., with a Christmas Day service at 9:00 a.m.



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.

Future Kindergarten Parents, please note: Beginning in the 2026–27 school year, only full-day kindergarten will be offered.

Also, beginning January 1st, parents must sign into the **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, if you are not going 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@gslds.org.

Something to Consider...

Living the Gift – Christ With Us Every Day

As the Advent candles grow brighter and Christmas draws near, we remember that Jesus is not only the Savior born in Bethlehem but the Savior who walks with us daily. His love shapes our identity as a school family—guiding our learning, relationships, and service to one another.

May this season lead us to share Christ's love in our homes, neighborhoods, and school hallways. May the peace of Christ, who came for all, fill our hearts with gratitude and joy.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth." — John 1:14

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, thank You for dwelling with us through Your Son, Jesus. Strengthen us to live each day in Your grace, showing Your peace and kindness to others. Keep our school rooted in Your Word and filled with Your Spirit. In Christ our Emmanuel we pray. Amen.

Blessings!

Robert Mayhew, Principal



In Our Prayers This Week

Each week this school year, the faculty will be praying for the students and their families. When we return from Christmas break, we will be praying for

Cohen A., Brithany B., Alice B., Henry B., Myles C., Reagan C., Lucas E.

Xoie E., Jameson G., Iris G.

Please join us in prayer.

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...

Hat, Scarf, and Gloves Collection

Thank you to our wonderful parents for your generous donations of hats, scarves, and gloves. Your kindness and willingness to give have helped provide warmth and comfort to those less fortunate during the colder months. Because of your support, many individuals in our community will feel cared for and remembered.

Gingerbread House

A warm thank you to everyone who helped make the Gingerbread House very special for the students! An extra special thank you to Rachel Pennington and Meagan Agne for their leadership and time.

If by chance you have received a damaged gift or are missing a piece to your gift, please contact the school office.

We would appreciate it if you will return to school any cloth bag your child brought home so we can reuse it next year. Also, while doing your post-holiday shopping, donations of tissue paper and tape would be appreciated. Both may be brought to the school office. Thank you in advance!



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)

FRIENDZY

In January, students will be learning about the importance of setting healthy boundaries by listening to their mind, body, and heart. The catchphrase is “Know Your Limit” based on Psalm 16:5-6 and 1 Corinthians 10:23. Please see Mr. Mayhew’s letter that follows for more details.

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.

- LIST CONTINUES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE -

Charger Headlines Continued...

AUCTION CLASSROOM BASKET THEMES CONT'D.

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



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

1300 Belt Line Road ♦ Collinsville, Illinois 62234
School: (618) 344-3153 ♦ Fax: (618) 344-3158
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



Good Shepherd Lutheran School

1300 Belt Line Road ♦ Collinsville, Illinois 62234

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

www.gsles.org

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



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

FRIENDZY

FRIENDZY CO.

UNIT FIVE >>> KNOW YOUR LIMIT

Good Shepherd Families!

We are rounding the corner and starting unit five of the Friendly Curriculum in January..

This month's unit, **KNOW YOUR LIMIT**, teaches us about the importance of setting **healthy boundaries** by listening to our mind, body, and heart so we live within our limits and thrive.

Catchphrase

"Know Your Limit"

Key Verse (Biblical anchor points):

Psalms 16:5-6

"Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance."

1 Corinthians 10:23

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive."

It is important to know your limits and listen to your body. Your body gives off warning signs to get your attention when getting close to making an unwise choice; a choice that will push you past your personal limit. When you know your limits and listen to your body it helps you set a healthy boundary for your life so that you can thrive. Talk with your child about the importance of knowing your limits and setting healthy boundaries. **Continue the Conversation** at home; here are the main points of this unit:

1. **Pay attention to your personal limits.** Pay attention to the warning signs you feel in your mind, heart, and body when you are pushed past your limit. A decision that is ok for someone else might not be right for you. These indicators will help you to establish personal boundaries.
2. **Establish healthy boundaries.** Healthy boundaries require us to be confident in our own opinions, desires, and needs. Understanding the 5 types of boundaries (material, physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual) is essential in equipping us to set personal boundaries to help us live within our limits.
3. **Healthy boundaries = knowing your limits and sticking to them!** Discovering our boundaries helps us to know our limits and stay within them so we can thrive. Boundaries are a guideline we establish for how others should treat us.

4. **Boundaries make room for you to respect yourself and others.** As we love and respect ourselves we ought to love and respect others. Boundaries bring awareness of how to respect and love others.

CREATING HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Learning to set healthy boundaries in our relationships is an essential life-long skill. When boundaries are healthy, we know our limits. We have boundaries that we can see and others that we cannot see. Here are five personal boundaries that are helpful for us to understand.

Material boundaries: A boundary related to my possessions

Physical boundaries: A boundary related to personal space

Mental boundaries: A boundary related to thoughts, values, or opinions

Emotional boundaries: A boundary related to emotions

Spiritual boundaries: A boundary related to experiences in relation to God

PUT IT IN ACTION

Two core competencies taught in the Know Your Limit unit are social awareness and responsible decision making. Below are signs of these skills in action. When you see your child putting these skills into practice, celebrate their growth and development!

SIGNS OF SOCIAL AWARENESS

- > Perspective-taking
- > Empathy
- > Appreciating diversity
- > Respect for others
- > Identifying problems
- > Analyzing situations
- > Solving problems
- > Evaluating
- > Reflecting
- > Ethical responsibility

SIGNS OF RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

As you connect with your student about knowing their limits and creating healthy boundaries, remember that we are here to support you. Please let the school know of personal boundaries established by your student that would be helpful in ensuring their success in the classroom. Communication is key in helping students thrive!

Knowing our own boundaries and respecting the boundaries of others helps us to be better friends!

Blessings,
Mr. Mayhew