



Good Shepherd Charger News

"Be Brave" Deuteronomy 31:6

All School Newsletter
December 5, 2025

Charger Headlines...

Calendar of Events

Friday, December 5-Sunday Dec. 7

- Girls Basketball A Team @ Trinity Tournament (MELHS) TBA

Saturday, December 6

- Band plays in Collinsville Christmas Parade 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 7

- Christmas Concerts
PreK 3s 1:00 p.m., PreK 4s 1:45 p.m.,
Kdg. 2:30 p.m., Gr. 1-2 3:15 p.m.,
Gr 3-4 4:00 p.m., Gr 5-8 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 9

- Boys Basketball AC @ Unity Lutheran 6:00 p.m.
- Girls Basketball AC @ Dupo 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 10

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

Thursday, December 11

- Girls Basketball AC @ Unity 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 14

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

For more information:

gslcs.org/calendars



Collinsville's Light Up Parade

Come support our **school band** who will be marching in the Collinsville Light Up Parade **tomorrow, Saturday December 6th**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. This year's theme is: Christmas Stories.

School Christmas Concerts

Every student will be participating in a Christmas Concert at Good Shepherd on **Sunday, December 7th**. Students may dress in nice dress clothes of any color, school clothes, or more formal attire of choice, no t-shirts or jeans. Doors open 30 minutes before each concert. Students should meet in the cafeteria 15 min. prior to their concert time. All concerts are held in the church. Enter through the church doors. School doors will be locked.

1:00 PM 3's (Hill, Junge, Klaas) 1:45 PM 4's (Nobbe, North)

2:30 PM Kindergarten (Krause, Sengele') 3:15 PM 1st-2nd (Cook, Nehrt, Cross, Strocher)

4:00 PM 3rd-4th (Clayton, Meador, Batty, Felten) 5:30 PM 5th-8th (Hamari, Rebbe, Lingel, Maske, Hasamear, Hulse, Krueger, Langendorf)

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.

Alumni Night

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

Please consider sharing the warmth of Christ's love by donating new hats, mittens or gloves, and scarves for the homeless ministry headed by Mrs. Dee Ann Billings. Donations may be brought to school **NOW through Wednesday, December 17th**. Look for the Christmas trees both in the ECC and School Entrances and hang your donations today. Thank you!

Charger Headlines Continued...

Pastor's Corner

This coming weekend the Gospel of Luke proclaims to us the return of Jesus. What should we do when we see signs of the end times all around us? What should the changing seasons call to mind? They remind us that our redemption is drawing near. Jesus encourages us to raise up our heads. He is closer to His return now than ever before. Having received grace for the sake of Jesus' work on the cross, we do not fear the end of this world. Instead, we look forward to the life to come with eager and joyful expectation.



Gingerbread House

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is hosting a student "Christmas store" on **December 16-17**.

- Students can buy gifts for family members for \$1-\$9.
- Parents are needed to volunteer and can sign up via this link: <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 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.

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)

Christmas Teacher Appreciation Group

Help show a little extra holiday cheer and appreciation to our teachers! The Good Shepherd Parents like to spoil our teachers in December with food and drink! Please consider helping bring in items or donating money to help with costs. To sign up to help use this link: <https://signup.com/go/OwOLMZJ> Questions? Call or Text Carrie Kober at 314-221-9722. Money donations may be sent to the school office or via Venmo to: <https://venmo.com/u/Carrie-Kober-1>



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 Reed A., Jeffrey B., Ethan B., Hazel B., Declan C., Hannah G., Demi G., Cheryl H., Maddie K., Iris M., and Acen M.
Please join us in prayer.

Something to Consider...

**Preparing Our Hearts –
The Season of Advent**

ADVENT-HOPE • PEACE • JOY • LOVE

As we enter the holy season of Advent, our school family is invited to set aside moments of quiet expectation. Advent is a time of longing—a season when we remember God's people waiting for the promised Messiah and we, too, wait for Christ's return.

At Good Shepherd, we teach our students that Advent is not merely a countdown to Christmas but a time of spiritual preparation. Through chapel, classroom devotions, and family worship, we focus on Christ's light shining into a world that longs for hope.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as we enter this season of Advent, prepare our hearts with hope and expectation. Keep our eyes fixed on Your promises and fill our school with the light only You can give. Come, Lord Jesus. 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...

School Counselor

I am pleased to announce we are partnering with Amy Champion Hilmes, LCPC and her agency Champion Consulting beginning in the new year. Mr. Taylor Merritt will be starting his services the first week of January when we return from Christmas break. Here is a bio of Mr. Merritt: I just wanted to say hello and introduce myself prior to joining your school team. My name is Mr. Taylor Merritt. I am a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor working out of Champion Consulting in O'fallon, IL. I received an associates degree from Lewis and Clark Community College, a bachelor's degree in theatre from SIUE, and eventually my masters degree in Counseling from Lindenwood University. This is my 4th year working as a school counselor. Prior to working as a school counselor I was a teacher for 8 years in Alton, River Gardens, and Hazelwood school districts. I have also had the oprivilege of being a high school baseball coach and even spent a year as a school bus driver for the Alton School District. I believe working in a wide variety of educational positions has given me a unique perspective and leg up when it comes to working with and helping students with a variety of needs. Also, my own children attend Zion Lutheran School in Bethalto, so Lutheran education is dear to my heart. I was raised Lutheran so I understand just how foundational God is in all we do when working with students. I continuously work God's instruction and will for us in my interactions with students.

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.)


LESA is sponsoring a virtual application event on **Tuesday, February 24th** 12 noon - 7:00 p.m. titled, "How to do a Financial Scholarship in FACTS". This will prove extremely helpful if you have not applied in the past. You can sign up for a timeslot in January. Watch for the sign-up link in the January school newsletter.

Music Cantata

12th Night Festival 2026: To mark the beginning of the second half of the school year as well as the official end of the Christmas season, join us for our annual 12th Night Festival on January 5th here at Good Shepherd. Since everyone will be getting back in the swing of things after the holiday, we'll make it easy and cook dinner for everyone. The meal will be served at 5:30p followed by music in the church at 7p. There is no cost to attend, but stay tuned for a link to sign your family up for the dinner.

Christmas at MELHS

The MELHS Music Department invites you to their annual "Christmas at MELHS" concert on **Sunday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m.** in Henschen Hall. Enjoy performances from our talented Chorale, Honors Choir, String Ensemble and Concert Band. Plus, join our combined choir for a special rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus." If you can't attend in person, catch the live stream on the [MELHS Fine Arts Facebook Page](#). A dessert reception will follow the performance.

Celebrating  *Years of Christian Education*
.....



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



Good Shepherd Lutheran School

1300 Belt Line Road ♦ Collinsville, Illinois 62234

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

www.gslds.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



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 GERMAN
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 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