



Good Shepherd Charger News

"Be Brave" Deuteronomy 31:6

All School Newsletter
January 30, 2026

Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 1

- 1st & 2nd Gr. sing in 8:00 a.m. church
- 3rd and 4th Gr. Sing in 10:30 a.m. church service
- Prospective Students Open House 1:00-3:00 pm
- Boys Bball A SIJHSAA Class S Regional Tournament TBA

Monday, February 2

- Boys Bball A SIJHSAA Class S Regional Tournament TBA
- Girls Bball D @ Zion Litchfield 5:00 pm

Tuesday, February 3

- Boys Basketball A SIJHSAA Class S Regional Tournament TBA
- Boys Basketball AC @ Zion Bell. 6:00 p.m.
- Girls Bball ACD @ Trinity Edwardsville 5:00

Wednesday, February 4

- Chapel Service Gr. 3-8, 8:25 a.m.
- Chapel Service PK-Gr 2 8:55 a.m.
- Boys Bball D @ Zion Belleville vs. St John, Red Bud 7:15 p.m.
- Girls Bball D @ Zion Belleville vs Zion Bethalto 4:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 5

- Boys Bball AC @ Trinity Edwardsville 6:00 p.m.
- Boys Bball D @ Zion Belleville vs Zion Litchfield 7:15 p.m.
- Spring Pictures Day - Preschool & Kdg

Friday, February 6

- Mid-Quarter
- Boys & Girls Bball A State Tournament TBA
- Girls Basketball D @ Zion Belleville vs Trinity Edwardsville 5:15 p.m.
- Spring Pictures Day - Gr 1-8 & Winter Sports Pics

For more information:
gslcs.org/calendars



Charger Headlines...

Spring Resale Shop Open - February 7

Mark your calendar to stop by our **Resale Shop** on **Saturday, February 7th** from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the school cafeteria. This is a great opportunity to purchase gently used standardized dress clothes and Good Shepherd Chargerwear at bargain prices. Polos, shorts, pants, skirts, and more will be available in lots of sizes for both boys and girls. (4T-18+).

Spring Pictures & Winter Sports Pictures

Lifetouch will be taking spring pictures on **Thursday, February 5th** for **Preschool and Kindergarten students. Grades 1-8 pictures will be taken on Friday, February 6th.** Standardized dress is **NOT** required for these pictures. Order forms were sent home with your child or you can order online at Lifetouch.com using our school ID: EVTMM4JQ

Winter Sports Pictures will be taken on **Friday, February 6th.** (7:00 am A Boys, 7:10 am CD Boys, 7:15 am A Girls, 7:20 am CD Girls, and 7:25 am Cheerleading Squad) Athletes have received the picture form or you can order online using the ID: EVTRSB7KK

Domino's Fundraiser Results

We are thrilled to announce that we not only met but exceeded our \$7,000 fundraising goal, raising an incredible \$8,230! Thank you so much to everyone for your amazing generosity and support. We couldn't have done it without you! Stay tuned for more details about the free dress days earned and when prize incentives and cards will be delivered to the school.

Annual Benefit Auction

The 2026 Annual Benefit Auction for Good Shepherd Lutheran School will be on **Saturday, March 21st.** Keep reading to find a list of themes for each of the classrooms. Ready to buy tickets? Use this link to get yours today: <https://events.handbid.com/auctions/good-shepherd-lutheran-school-auction-2026> A sponsorship/donation form also follows the newsletter. We appreciate your generosity and involvement! Any questions, email the committee for a quick response: gs.auctioncommittee@gmail.com

FRIENDZY

In February, our catchphrase will be "Uniquely You" based on Psalm 139:14 and Ephesians 2:10. Students will be encouraged to see how God made all of us uniquely for a reason and that our differences make us stronger! Please read the letter attached from Mr. Mayhew with more details.

Charger Headlines Continued...

Pastor's Corner

In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, the master goes out and hires laborers again and again—early in the morning, and all the way to the end of the day. When evening comes, he pays everyone the same. How can that be right? It doesn't seem fair. But the master knows exactly what he is doing. He gives to each worker not according to how long they labored, but according to what they need for the day. He does not measure wages by merit; he gives out of his generosity. In the same way, our Lord does not deal with us according to our work or worthiness. Instead, out of His gracious abundance, He gives us exactly what we need: the forgiveness of sins, won for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This weekend, we hear and receive that same freely given grace once again! - Pastor Gray



Tuition Scholarships

Scholarship applications for LESA's Building Blocks Assistance **and** Good Shepherd Church and School are now available through FACTS. (See flyer following for all the details.) Call the office with any questions.



Parents please use this link to sign up for the LESA Tuition Assistance Application Zoom Meeting – February 24, 2026. This is a 30 minute Zoom meeting and will be very helpful, especially for first time applicants. <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/qyyfe>

There will be a virtual event on March 24, but this will be 15 minute time slots. Families can sign up for more than one time slot if they feel they need more time. Here is the link for the March 24 sign up: <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/tuxoj>

Science Fair

Kindergarten-5th and 7th Grade Science Fair projects were fantastic! Thank you to all the students who participated and to our coordinating teachers, Mrs. Hulse and Mrs. Maske. A list of the 5th and 7th grade students who are advancing with their projects to the Regional Science Fair follows the newsletter. Congratulations to all!



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 Adelynn M., Alexis M., Hayes O., Bhavneet S., Madilyn S., Rylen T., and Mia W. Please join us in prayer.

Something to Consider...

Living as Christians in a Secular World

Christians today live in a world that often sets faith aside. Cultural values may conflict with Scripture, and believers can feel pressure to blend in rather than stand firm. Yet Jesus reminds us that we are not called out of the world, but to live faithfully within it (John 17:15).

Our identity is rooted in Christ. Through Baptism, we belong to God, and His Word—not culture—shapes who we are. Secure in that identity, we are called to be “salt and light” (Matthew 5:13–16), showing God’s love through our words and actions with humility, grace, and truth.

Living faithfully also requires discernment, especially as we guide children and young people to measure the world against Scripture. At the same time, we engage others with compassion, not fear, trusting God to work through us.

Though living in a secular world is challenging, God does not leave us alone. Through His Word, Sacraments, and Christian community, He strengthens us to live boldly in faith and love—right where He has placed us.

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...

Spelling Bee Winners

Congratulations to all of our 1st-8th grade students who entered the Good Shepherd Spelling Bee. Thank you for your bravery in participating and doing your best. We are very proud of each of you!

Pictured: Evelyn S., 1st Grade; Brooks B., 2nd Grade; Huxley M., 3rd Grade; Clark M., 4th Grade; Eden G., 5th Grade; Jed S., 6th Grade; Hunter M., 7th/8th Grade.



Tax Forms

Families needing to print statements for tax purposes, please follow the steps below. If you need assistance, please contact Mrs. Osborn in the school office.

Log into your FACTS account > Payment Plan & Billing > View Details > Select Correct Term > View Payment Summary > Print

Celebrating **42** *Years of Christian Education*

Annual Benefit Auction

The 2026 Annual Benefit Auction for Good Shepherd Lutheran School will be on **Saturday, March 21st**.

The following is a list of themes for each grade. Please bring your donations to school at any time. We appreciate your generosity and support

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



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
 - o **Deadline: April 10**
 - o <https://tinyurl.com/LESA-App>
2. Submit required documents
 - o 2025 - 1040 tax return (entire packet)
 - o 2025 - W2
 - o 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

GSLS 2026 Science Fair Regional Projects

Experimental Division - Grade 5

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Category</u>
Kaelyn Parrish	Science is Sweet	Chemistry
Emily Landwehr	Cupcake Chaos	Chemistry
Jaxson Timmons	How Temperature Affects the Height of the Tennis Ball	Physics
Cooper Brinkmeyer	Salt VS. Fresh	Physics
Alice Minelli	Drop From the Top	Physics
Ellie Smith	Sugar Rush	Chemistry
Josie Forman	Egg-Cellent Experiment	Agriculture
Frederick Hemmer	Chromebook VS. Textbook	Health Science

Experimental Division - Grade 7

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Category</u>
Aria Minelli	Explosion!	Chemistry
Allison Beavers	Level Up Your Cardio	Health Science
Connor Jones	Difference in Exit Velocity Between Three Types of Baseballs	Physics
Ryan Bailey	Hot or Cold: Which Ball Rebounds Higher	Physics
Adelynn Miller	Does Color Affect Taste?	Behavioral Science
Molly Feichtinger	Too Much Screen Time? Let's Remember That!	Behavioral Science
Lily Whitehead	Barking up the right color	Zoology
Brennan Italiano	Off the Hook	Consumer Science

Lola Frazier	Coloring Heart Rates	Behavioral Science
Owen Clark	Live Bait VS Artificial	Zoology
Natalie Staake	It's a Grow-Mitzvah!	Biochemistry
Alexis Moore	Popping Perfection	Product / Consumer Science
Mia Walloch	What Flavor of Mentos Will Go the Highest Mixed with Coke-a-Cola	Chemistry
Hailey Spudich	Popping Popcorn	Chemistry



UNIT SIX >>> UNIQUELY YOU

Good Shepherd Families!

Unit 6 is titled **UNIQUELY YOU** and teaches us to know that we are God's masterpiece, uniquely created for a specific purpose. We'll learn how true beauty comes from the inside, and that our differences are beautiful—they make our world an exciting place. By the end of this unit, students will see how God made all of us uniquely for a reason and that our differences make us stronger!

Catchphrase (main point for students to catch on to):

"Uniquely You"

Key Verse (Biblical anchor points):

Psalm 139:14

"Body and soul, I am marvelously made!"

Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Have you ever met a person who was beautiful on the outside but was mean, petty, or a bully once you got to know them? Beauty doesn't just come from our physical appearance; beauty comes from inside us. The world values outward beauty and attractiveness, but God honors noble character. Generosity, love, compassion, kindness, and courage are truly beautiful. Here are some ways you can **Continue the Conversation** at home this month with your student about what it means to embrace being "Uniquely You":

1. **God designed each of us with purpose and intention.** We were not created by accident. God took His time and made you look the way you do for a reason. You are uniquely you.
2. **You are more than your physical appearance.** If we judge ourselves or other people based solely on physical appearance, we miss out on knowing the whole person. You are more than the way you look!

3. Focus on the other things that make you YOU. Are you kind? Considerate? Generous? Silly? A good friend? A good helper? All of these qualities make you YOU. Your physical appearance is what people see, but who you are on the inside says a lot about you as a person. (And God gave you all those great inside qualities, too!)

COMPARISON IS THE THIEF OF JOY ///

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, said, "Comparison is the thief of joy." And he was right! When we constantly compare ourselves to others, it can make us sad, angry, and feel bad about ourselves. There is joy in discovering and liking the wonderful things about ourselves.

KEEP IT GOING ///

Is there something that your child shared that was insightful from in this unit? Please share. Feedback equips us in directing classroom conversations.

Your students are learning relationship skills that will benefit them for a lifetime!

Blessings,
Mr. Mayhew