



Good Shepherd Charger News

“Be Brave” Deuteronomy 31:6

All School Newsletter
March 27, 2026

Charger Headlines...

Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 29

- 1st, 2nd, 7th & 8th Gr. sing in 8:00 a.m. church service
- 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Gr. Sing in 10:30 a.m. church service
- Preschool & Kdg. students sing in church - choose 8:00 or 10:30 service

Monday, March 30- Tues., April 6

- NO SCHOOL - Easter Break

Friday, April 10

- Mid-Quarter
- Chapel Service Gr. 3-8, 8:30 a.m.
- Grandparents & Special Friends Day
- Spring Musical Dress Rehearsal 1:45 pm
- Gr 3 & 4 Spring Musical 7:00 p.m.

Monday, April 13-Friday, April 24

- APEX Fun Run

Wednesday, April 15

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

Friday, April 17

- 7th & 8th Grade School Play 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 18

- Conference Track Meet @ Belleville West H.S. 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 19

- 1st, 2nd, 7th & 8th Gr. sing 8:00 a.m.
- 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Gr. Sing 10:30 a.m.
- 7th & 8th Grade School Play 2:00 p.m.

For more information:
gslcs.org/calendars



Grandparents and Special Friends Day

We look forward to seeing you on **Friday, April 10th** from 8:15-11:00 a.m.

PARENTS, please return the permission slip by Tuesday, April 7th.

To create ample parking for everyone, we ask the Early Childhood and Kindergarten families to park down by the playground and come in through the ECC Front Doors. All other families may park in the main upper parking lot. We appreciate your understanding and help.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be No Hot Lunch served. All students who are staying in school over the lunch hour will need to bring a lunch.

Spring Musical - Grades 3&4

On Friday, April 10th at 7:00 PM in the school gym, the 3rd and 4th grade students will present the Spring Musical, “Fish Tales”. Dress for 3rd grade will be the t-shirt they will receive prior to the performance. Dress for 4th grade is their costumes. Students arrive by 6:45 PM in their classroom. Doors open at 6:35 PM. All families are invited to attend!

Middle School Dance

This year’s dance, “One Night, All Together,” will be held on **Saturday, April 18, 2026**, from 6:00–9:00 p.m. at Metro East Lutheran High School. This event is open to Lutheran middle school students in grades 6–8. Dance attire is casual to semi-formal.

Tickets are \$5 and will be sold in the Good Shepherd school office on Monday and Tuesday (4/13–4/14) only. A parent phone number is required to purchase tickets. Tickets will also be available at the dance.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer or donate items or money to help make this event special. You can chaperone, help with setup or cleanup, work the front table, or assist with snacks and games. Donations will help cover costs. Please use this link to volunteer - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A45A5AE2AAAFB6-62099175-melhs#/>

SignupGenius: Thank you in advance for your support. Questions - contact Dana McQuade, irie4unme13@yahoo.com, 740-438-6000

FRIENDZY

The theme for April and May is “The Next Right Thing”. We will be teaching students to understand how to make wise choices and do what is right based on Proverbs 3:5. See the letter from Mr. Mayhew that follows.

2026-2027 School Calendar

The calendar for our next academic year follows this newsletter and can also be found on the [school website](#)

Charger Headlines Continued...

Region Science Fair Results

Congratulations to Good Shepherd's Region 12 Science Fair Participants! This year, many students won top of category and individualized awards. Will B. won the **Thermo-Fisher Junior Innovators Challenge**, which is presented to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who placed in the top 10% of the fair.

Best of Category Awards for the Junior Division

Behavioral Science - Adeleyn M.

Chemistry - Kaelyn P.

Health Sciences - Allison B.

Best of Fair Awards – Junior Division

2nd Place - Josie F.

Adelynn M., Allison B., Molly F., and Will B. have been invited to participate in the State Competition in Carbondale on April 24-25.

Spring Book Fair

Our annual Book Fair will take place **April 7–10** in the school library. Students, parents, grandparents, and special friends are invited to browse a wide selection of books for all ages. The fair will be open each day from 7:45–8:15 a.m. and 3:15–4:00 p.m. All proceeds directly support our school library and its resources. The Book Fair will also be a special stop during Grandparents and Special Friends Day on Friday, April 10, providing a wonderful opportunity to shop together and encourage a love of reading.

APEX FUN RUN FUNDRAISER

Apex will begin their 2-week interactive leadership program beginning **Monday, April 13th** culminating in the Fun Run on April 23rd & 24th. Please see the flyer following this newsletter for more information.

2026-2027 Tuition Scholarships

Applications for scholarships that will be applied to students' 2026-27 tuition is available through LESA's Building Blocks Assistance and Good Shepherd Church and School **NOW** using FACTS. APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH. Contact the school office with any questions. (Flyer follows newsletter)



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 Easter break we will be praying for Katarina M., Huxley M., Daxton P., Luke R., Beau S., Sartaj S., Presley W., Brooke W., and Adah W. Please join us in prayer.

Something to Consider...

Getting Ready for Easter

Easter is the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead and showing us that He has victory over sin and death. As Easter gets closer, Christians take time to think about Jesus' love and what He has done for us.

During this season, we listen to God's Word, pray, and remember that Jesus went to the cross for us—and then rose again on Easter morning. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven and have new life.

As students, we prepare for Easter by learning about Jesus, showing kindness to others, and thanking God for His great love. We look forward with joy to celebrating Easter and our risen Savior!

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.



Holy Week & Easter Services

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church • Collinsville

Palm Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am
Children's Choir

Mon–Wed Vespers at 6:15pm

Maundy Thursday: 4:30pm & 6:30pm
Communion Services

Good Friday: 12:00pm Chief Service
4:30pm & 6:30pm Tenebrae

Saturday: 5:30pm Easter Service
7:30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am
Breakfast & Egg Hunt Between Services



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



KEEP IMPROVING—KEEP CLIMBING—KEEP LEVELING UP

Level Up

Starts with Me

Understanding Others

Game Plan

Rise Above

Level Up Your Leadership

OUR APEX FUN RUN FUNDRAISER STARTS ON MONDAY, APRIL 13!

WE WOULD LOVE YOUR HELP RAISING FUNDS FOR

SCHOOL ENHANCEMENTS SUCH AS ADDITIONAL DESKS, LIVE STREAMING TOOLS, MOTION LIGHTS.

ABOUT OUR FUNDRAISER

Our goal is to provide all of our students with the best education and school experience possible and to ensure they have the tools they need to learn and grow. All students are included in the leadership program and fitness event regardless of financial participation in the fundraiser. If you can help, please know that no donation is too small.

ABOUT APEX LEADERSHIP CO.

Apex is a two-week interactive leadership and character-building program combined with a fitness focused event fundraiser to help schools raise much needed funds.

2025-2026 LEADERSHIP THEME

The Apex Leadership program empowers students to grow as leaders by focusing on personal responsibility, empathy, goal-setting, and resilience. Through quick, high-energy lessons, students learn how to lead by example, understand others, work through challenges, and bring out the best in themselves and their peers. Each lesson builds critical interpersonal skills that align with our school’s vision of cultivating a positive, inclusive, and achievement-focused community.

KEEP IMPROVING – KEEP CLIMBING – KEEP LEVELING UP!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Pledging Opens: April 13 Event Day: April 23rd & 24th

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?



When pledging opens go to www.myapexevent.com and log in using your child’s unique ACCESS CODE. Their Access Code and a QR code for the site can be found on their VIP Badge.



Use the “Share Wizard” tool to send a donation link to ten family members and friends via email, text, and social media asking that they donate online to help our school.



Make a flat donation OR pledge a dollar amount per unit that your child completes at the event. Reported laps are capped at 42 max. If a student is in Pre-K, absent or unable to participate, their lap count will default to 36.



/apexleadershipcompany



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www.apexleadershipco.com

FRIENDZY

FRIENDZY.CO

UNIT EIGHT >>> DO THE NEXT RIGHT THING

Good Shepherd Families!

THIS IS IT

This year students learned how to create and maintain healthy friendships. And we know friendships take work—these last months we are teaching students what it means when we say the phrase **DO THE NEXT RIGHT THING** by teaching them to understand how to make wise choices and do what is right.

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

The Next Right Thing

Key Verse (Biblical anchor points):

Deuteronomy 6:18

“Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight, so all will go well with you.”

Proverbs 3:5

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Life is a journey. Nobody has a clear map for the path we must take. We each get to make decisions for our lives every day. Decisions can be big or small, major or minor, easy or hard, with short-term or long-long-term consequences. Even little decisions shape our path to determine our destinations. When faced with a variety of choices, it helps to do the next right thing. Here are ways to **Continue the Conversation** by talking through the key points of this unit:

1. **Consider your options.** Think about what possible choices are available in the situation. Try to narrow it down to a few good options rather than a vast sea of possibilities. Make a list of pros and cons relating to your options.
2. **Seek advice.** Pray for direction from the Lord. Remember the Key Verse, Proverbs 3:5. He has promised to guide you and make your path straight. Listen and wait for his answer. Read the Bible. Think about how God’s word can direct your path to help you make a choice. Ask for advice from people you trust (reliable friends, parents, or

3. Test a decision. Is it R.I.G.H.T.?

>>> **Responsible**—Is it a responsible thing to do?

>>> **Impact**—How might this choice impact you? How might it impact others?

>>> **Goals**—Does this decision help you work toward accomplishing your goals?

>>> **Honorable** - Is this choice something that you can feel proud of? Does it show respect to yourself and those around you?

>>> **True**—Is this choice true to who you are? Is it true to your values and those of your community?

4. **Trust yourself and the Lord.** Pay attention to how you feel deep down about the choice. If it makes you feel nervous, uncomfortable, or even a little sick, it might not be the right thing for you right now. Strive for a choice that gives you a sense of peace. You can do hard things. Nobody knows you better than you! Plus, you have the Holy Spirit to guide you. Listen for His voice and do the next right thing!

GOD'S WORD HELPS TO MAKE OUR PATH STRAIGHT

The Lord asks us to trust in Him with all our hearts and not to depend on our own understanding. When we do this and acknowledge Him, he promises to make our path straight. The Lord blesses us when we choose to do what is right and good. When it comes to making decisions, we are ready and able to choose to do the next right thing. God's word (the Bible), his Holy Spirit, and people in our community are there to help guide us.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Journeying together with you this year has been so much fun! Did you have fun? Tell us about it. Please share some of your favorite highlights from the year and one key take away that your student has learned through Friendzy.

THANK YOU

Thank you for traveling along on this journey with us! We trust that God has revealed His love and truth to your child and your family along the way. Having you partner with us and Friendzy has been a blessing! It is a joy to teach your students the importance of friendship.

When kids learn friendship, they learn it for life!

Blessings,
Mr. Mayhew

2026-2027

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

1300 Beltline Road
Collinsville, IL
Phone: 618-344-3153
Fax: 618-344-3156

August '26						
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July '27						
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Aug 13	Welcome Back Night at 6-8 pm- Grades K-8
Aug 18	Athletic Parent Meeting at 6:30 pm - Gr. 5-8
Aug 18	School Begins - Preschool - Grade 8
Sep 04	No School - LESA Improvement Day
Sep 07	No School - Labor Day
Oct 09	No School - CID/SID Teacher's Conference
Oct 12	No School - Columbus Day
Oct 16	End of 1st Quarter - 40 days
Oct 29	No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
Oct 30	No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov 25	No School - Thanksgiving Break
Nov 26	No School - Thanksgiving Break
Nov 27	No School - Thanksgiving Break
Dec 19	End of 2nd Quarter - 40 days
Dec 21	No School - Christmas Break
Dec 22	No School - Christmas Break
Dec 23	No School - Christmas Break
Dec 24	No School - Christmas Break
Dec 25	No School - Christmas Break
Dec 28	No School - Christmas Break
Dec 29	No School - Christmas Break
Dec 30	No School - Christmas Break
Dec 31	No School - Christmas Break
Jan 01	No School - Christmas Break
Jan 04	School Resumes
Jan 18	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb 15	No School - President's Day
March 5	End of 3rd Quarter - 43 days
Mar 08	No School - Spring Break
Mar 09	No School - Spring Break
Mar 10	No School - Spring Break
Mar 11	No School - Spring Break
Mar 12	No School - Spring Break
Mar 26	No School - Good Friday
Apr 16	No School - School Improvement Day
May 20	Last Day School - End of 4th Qt. - 47 days
May 20	8th Grade Graduation - at 6:30 pm
May 27	Summer Fun Begins
Jul 05	Summer Fun Closed - Observance of July 4