



Good Shepherd Charger News

"Forgiven" 1 John 1:9

All School Newsletter
September 25, 2026

Charger Headlines...

Calendar of Events

Friday, September 25

- Volleyball A GSLS Tournament
- Volleyball D Tournament at Belleville

Saturday, September 26

- Volleyball A GSLS Tournament
- Volleyball D Tournament at Belleville
- No Pee Wee Basketball

Monday, September 28

- Bo-Bo's Pizza Sale begins
- Open House for K-Gr 4 at 7:00 or 7:30pm; Grades 5-8 at 7:30 or 8:00pm

Wednesday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 1

- Volleyball AC at Holy Cross 6pm
- Cross Country at Highland 4pm

Friday, October 2

- Volleyball B Tournament at Belleville

Saturday, October 3

- Volleyball A at St. Charles 10am

Sunday, October 4

- Harvest Fest 3-6 pm
- Blood Drive in ECC Lobby 2-5 pm

Open House is Monday, September 28th

Good Shepherd's Open House for Students K-8 will be on **Monday, September 28th!** The start times are 7:00 and 7:30pm for Grades K-4 and 7:30 and 8:00pm for Grades 5-8. Please come to the classroom at these recommended times. This is an opportunity to see what is happening in the classroom and for parents to ask questions. If a one-on-one meeting is desired, please schedule a meeting with the teacher at a later time.



Bo-Bo's Fundraiser

Sales will begin on Monday, September 28th. Watch for order forms to come home. Orders for BoBo's St. Louis Brand Pizzas, Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough, desserts, and chocolates are offered. Samples of the pizzas will be given out at our September 28th Open House.



Harvest Fest - Sunday October 4, 2026, 3:00-6:00pm

Free food, music, games, bounce houses, and family fun! Invite your friends and neighbors! **We are looking for volunteers** for your child's class booth. All supplies and directions are provided. This is a great outreach to the community as well as an opportunity to meet other GS parents! Click the sign up link and look for the signup for your child's class and to bring a tent. [Sign up here.](#)

FRIENDZY

This month's Friendlyzy lesson will help our students understand and deal with emotions surrounding grief and loss. They will learn about the importance of self-awareness to not only feel emotions but also to be able to name them. We look to Scripture as our guide. The Bible teaches us in Matthew 5:4 *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."* Feelings of sadness and grief are a normal part of being human and learning to identify emotions helps us grow in self-awareness and perspective. See the flyer later in the newsletter for more details.

For more information:
gslcs.org/calendars



Charger Headlines Continued...

Pastor's Corner

What do we believe? Why do we believe it? If you're looking for a church home or simply have questions, you're invited! Join Pastor Packer for **A Simple Explanation of Christianity** on Sundays, beginning October 4th in the church library from 9:15am to 10:15am.



Blood Drive

It's not too late to help! The Impact Life Blood Drive will be held at the Harvest Fest on **Sunday, October 4th**, from 2:00-5:00 p.m in the Early Childhood Center lobby. Schedule an appointment today by calling ImpactLife

at 800-747-5401, or [online](#) using group #9887.

Picture Retake Day and Fall Sports Pictures

Lifetouch will be back to school on **Friday, October 16th** to retake pictures. **If you are unhappy with the pictures you purchased earlier, please send them with your child to give to the photographer** when he/she has their new one taken. Forms to order retake pictures are available in the school office or you can order online at mylifetouch.com ID: EVTTVDXRJ

Fall Sports Pictures will also be taken that morning before school. Below is the schedule for the Sports Pictures. Please use the south side door of the gym to enter the building before school.

- 7:00am Baseball
- 7:10am A/B Volleyball
- 7:20am C/D Volleyball
- 7:30am Cross Country

Use code EVTPJFM38 to order online at www.mylifetouch.com.

Something to Consider...

Volunteering is an important part of what makes Good Shepherd such a strong and caring school community. When parents, grandparents, church members, and friends share their time and talents, they help provide meaningful opportunities for our students while supporting our teachers and staff. Whether you assist in a classroom, help with an event, coach a team, serve lunch, supervise a field trip, or complete a project behind the scenes, your service makes a difference. Volunteering also shows our children the value of serving others and working together for a common purpose.

The Bible reminds us, "Serve one another humbly in love" (Galatians 5:13). Every act of service—large or small—is valuable and appreciated. Thank you to everyone who gives generously of their time and talents to bless our students and strengthen the ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran School.

It's a great day to be a Charger!

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. Next week we will be praying for Henry B., Annalynne C., Josie F., Gavin H., Freddy H., Emily L., Callie L., Brooklyn M., Dylan M., Airy'En M., Kaelyn P., Fred S., and Beckham W. 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...

The Variety Show is Coming!!

This year's show will be held on **Friday, October 23rd** at 6:00 p.m, in the gym. The forms to sign up are available in the school office and DUE TODAY. We are excited to see what is in store for the show!

MELHS Fall Sampler Concert

Join the Metro East Lutheran High School Music Department for the Fall Sampler Concert on Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m. in Henschen Alumni Hall. The concert will feature performances by the Handbell Ensemble, String Ensemble, Concert Choir, and Concert Band. Come enjoy an afternoon of music as our students share their God-given gifts and talents! A dessert reception will follow the concert. All are welcome!

Get Your Fall Mums at the Harvest Fest

Our Youth Group is selling mums at the Harvest Fest. Stop by and pick up your fall mums and support the youth group's fundraising efforts. Funds will go toward the upcoming mission trip.



Do You Have an Award-Winning Chili Recipe?

Put your chili recipe to the test at the Harvest Fest. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4AACAF29A2FE3-65240812-harvest#/>

Brew in the Lou Event to Support LESA

On Saturday, October 10th, come to Francis Park in St. Louis to sample food and beer in support of Lutheran Elementary Schools Association. Proceeds go toward scholarships and educator development. For more information, check out the event calendar on [LESA's website](#).

Celebrating **43** *Years of Christian Education*
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Dear Good Shepherd Families,

FEELING “NOT OKAY” CAN BE SCARY ///

How many of you feel like **IT’S OK TO NOT BE OK**? This month’s Friendzy unit will help our students understand and deal with grief and loss. We have all experienced grief or loss at some level; this Friendzy unit addresses the importance of self-awareness to not only feel our emotions but be able to name them. We are here to resource you as parents and guardians through email communication, parent discussion resources in the Friendzy student workbook, and conversation cards to help you continue the conversations at home.

JESUS IS OUR MODEL ///

As we unpack the teaching around **IT’S OK TO NOT BE OK**, we look to Scripture as our guide in understanding that grief and sadness are a normal part of the human experience. Jesus felt grief when he received the bad news that his friend Lazarus died. He was so sad that he cried (John 11:35). Encouraging, comforting, and supporting each other is God’s design for loving each other and building community. This month’s Catchphrase and Key Ideas are listed below.

CATCHPHRASE: It’s Ok To Not Be Ok

Key Verses (Biblical anchor points):

Matthew 5:4

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Psalms 34:18

“The Lord is close to the broken hearted. He rescues those whose spirits are crushed.”

GOAL: To understand that feelings of sadness and grief are a normal part of being human and to learn to identify emotions and grow in self-awareness and perspective-taking.

EMBRACING EMOTIONS ///

“It’s Ok To Not Be Ok” is all about embracing our true emotions. Consider discussing these questions together:

- When you feel heavy emotions like sadness or anger, what are some ways you find comfort?
- How do you decide which friends are safe to share your feelings with?

- God is a safe and trustworthy place for us to share all of our feelings - not just happy or peaceful feelings. Have you ever talked with God about heavy emotions like anger or sadness? What was that like?



FRIENDZY IN ACTION ///

Here are some tools to help lead your family in bringing their emotions to God in prayer.

- The book of Psalms is a roadmap teaching us that we can bring ALL of our emotions to God in prayer. Prayer is an honest conversation with God, and no part of us is hidden from him.
- We do not have to wait until we feel happy and peaceful to talk to God. We, as His children, have access to God through prayer in all situations. Our Key verses in this unit, Psalm 34:18 and Matthew 5:4, remind us that God is near to those who are experiencing loss and grief.
- When we feel big emotions like sadness, loneliness, or anger, we can bring them to God in prayer, and He will comfort us.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU ///

Has there been a time this month that you “caught” your child being especially kind to someone having a tough time? Tell us about it!

When kids learn friendship, they learn it for life!

Blessings,

Mr. Mayhew - Principal

A Simple Explanation *of* Christianity

What do we believe?
Why do we believe it?

Looking for a church home?
Have questions? Simply curious?

You're invited!

BEGINNING OCTOBER 4, 2026

Sundays • 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Collinsville

Church library, lower level

Explore the Bible, Jesus, the Ten Commandments,
the Gospel, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

No previous knowledge needed.
Come and bring your questions!

Sunday School available for children.

Questions? Contact Pastor Packer

970-507-0773

pastorandrewpacker@gmail.com



HARVEST FEST

FREE!

**LIVE MUSIC - FREE FOOD - FUN GAMES -
BOUNCE HOUSES - AND MORE**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

**1300 Beltline Rd.
Collinsville, IL 62234**

FROM 3:00PM - 6:00PM

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER**

4