



Good Shepherd Charger News

"In His Hands" Isaiah 49:16

All School Newsletter
December 13, 2024

Charger Headlines...

Calendar of Events

Friday, December 13

- Theme Shirt & Jeans Day
- Hat, Mittens/Gloves, Scarf Collection cont.
- Boys Basketball A Team Green Park - TBA
- Girls Basketball C @ Zion Litchfield 6:00
- Boys Basketball C @ Zion Litchfield 7:00

Saturday, December 14

- Boys Basketball A Team Green Park Tournament - TBA

Sunday, December 15

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

Monday-Wednesday, December 16-18

- Hat, Mittens/Gloves, Scarf Collection

Monday, December 16

- Girls Basketball AC @ Staunton 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 17

- Boys Basketball AC Home vs. Zion Belleville 6:00 p.m.
- Gingerbread House

Wednesday, December 18

- Gingerbread House

Friday, December 20

- Chapel Service 8:25 a.m. (Gr 2-8)
- Chapel Service 8:55 a.m. (ECC-Gr1)
- End of 2nd Quarter
- Boys Basketball AC Home vs. Unity 6:00 p.m. ALUMNI NIGHT
- Pep band and alumni play @ boys game

For more information:
gslcs.org/calendars



Hat, Scarf, and Gloves Collection

We have **3 more days** left to collect warm hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for those who need them in our communities. **Wednesday, December 18th** is the last day to donate. Please add your gifts to the Christmas trees either in the ECC or School entrance! Thank you for your generosity!



Gingerbread House



December 17th and 18th students will get to shop at the Gingerbread House for the special people in their lives. The students get sooooo excited when they come back with their bag full of gifts. We need your help! Please plan to volunteer for an hour or two to help wrap and shop. The sign up link includes the classes and shopping times and can be found here:

<https://signup.com/go/sWqrpMf>

Alumni Night

Next **Friday, December 20th** is our school's annual Alumni Night. The Charger Boys Basketball "A" team will take the court against Unity Lutheran about 7:00 p.m. The Boys "C" team is scheduled to 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.



Chapel Service - Friday

Please note: our last chapel service in 2024 will be on **Friday, December 20th**. Parents are welcome to attend!

End of 2nd Quarter

The 2nd Quarter ends on **Friday, December 20th**. Reports cards will be emailed to you on Friday, January 10th.

Scrip/Charger Bucks Gift Cards

NOW is the time to purchase gift cards through the Scrip/Charger Bucks program! It's an easy way to get last minute gifts or stocking stuffers and earn tuition credits for your family. The [RaiseRight app](#) makes it easy. Over 700 stores and restaurants to choose from. **Last day to order cards through school is Monday, December 16th** to receive them before Christmas break. Cards will also be available for purchase in the connector hallway before and after Sunday School on Sunday, December 15th & 22nd. (See flyer following for more info.)

Charger Headlines Continued...

Pastor's Corner

This is a beautiful summary of the Advent and Christmas seasons: Only the humble believe him and rejoice that God is so free and so marvelous that he does wonders where people despair, that he takes what is little and lowly and makes it marvelous. And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken.



That...is the unrecognized mystery of this world: Jesus Christ. That this Jesus of Nazareth, the carpenter, was himself the Lord of glory: that was the mystery of God. It was a mystery because God became poor, low, lowly, and weak out of love for humankind, because God became a human being like us, so that we would become divine, and because he came to us so that we would come to him. God as the one who becomes low for our sakes, God in Jesus of Nazareth—that is the secret, hidden wisdom...that “no eye has seen nor ear heard nor the human heart conceived” (1 Cor. 2:9)... That is the depth of the Deity, whom we worship as mystery and comprehend as mystery. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Pee-Wee Boys Basketball

Boys in grades 2-4 are eligible to participate in the Pee-Wee program. Information and form is being sent home with your student today. Please complete and **return the form to Mrs. Cross by Friday, December 20th**. Additional forms are available in the school office. The goals of the program are to teach introductory skills, the importance of being a team player and sharing. Help is needed. Please contact Mrs. Cross to volunteer - rcross@gslcs.org. Practices begin Saturday, January 11th.

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. Kdg - 8th grade students are invited to get creative and also write a book. Books are due by February 9, 2024, unless otherwise stated by your child's teacher. Any questions may be directed to your student's teacher. Happy writing! (See flyer that follows for more details.)

Something to Consider...

Bible Verses for Advent Candles
The first candle (purple) “CANDLE OF HOPE” indicates His promise and hope. We can have trust and hope because God is faithful and will keep the covenants He made to us.

Bible Verse: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

The second candle (purple) “CANDLE OF PREPARATION” indicates His light and preparation. This refers to the preparation for Christ's birth and welcoming the gift of Jesus.

Bible Verse: “As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.” (Luke 3:4)

The third candle (pink or rose) “CANDLE OF JOY” indicates the angels brought great news of JOY to the shepherds and Joseph!

Bible Verse: “An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” (Luke 2:9-10)

Blessings!

Robert Mayhew, Principal



In Our Prayers This Week

Each week the faculty prays for our students and their families. Next week we will be praying for Lilliana A., Jeffrey B., Wyatt B., Ethan B., Hazel B., Declan C. Jack F., Grady G., Hannah G., Eloise G., Kenleigh H., and Alayna H. 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...

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 25th 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.

2025-26 GSLS Reenrollment Begins January 1st

On January 1, 2025 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.

Also, **beginning January 1st, parents need to sign into your 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, should you choose not to re-enroll your student(s), you must notify the school no later than January 17th 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@gslcs.org. Please look for an email from Mr. Mayhew next week which will include a ReEnrollment Timeline, fees and tuition for the 2025-26 school year.



Annual Benefit Auction

The 2025 Annual Benefit Auction for Good Shepherd Lutheran School will be on **Saturday, March 29th**. While you are doing your Christmas shopping, you might want to consider a donation to the Auction. Keep reading to find a list of themes for each of the classrooms. A sponsorship/donation form is also attached. We appreciate your generosity and involvement!



New Opportunity - Domino's Pizza

Beginning **Monday, 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 be used to replace the school's ancient laminator! Look for detailed information coming home with your child next week. Sales incentives, order form and link to register online will all be spelled out for you to begin selling on our first day back to school - January 6, 2025.

Metro East Lutheran High School

The Metro East Lutheran High School Music Department invites you to our annual "Christmas at MELHS" concert Sunday, December 15th at 4 PM in Henschen Alumni Hall! Enjoy performances from our talented Chorale, Ritterchor, 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 our [MELHS Fine Arts Facebook Page](#). Don't miss out on the dessert reception afterward!

Celebrating **41** *Years of Christian Education*

Charger Bucks - Scrip Program

RaiseRight.com

Are you ready for the Christmas season?!

Gifts, decorating, dining at home, repairs, clothing...lots of ways to earn tuition credits for your family!

Invite your family, friends, co-workers, boss and neighbors to purchase gift cards - over 700 vendors!

Gift cards will be available in the connector hallway before and after Sunday School on:

December 15th and 22nd

Please note:

We have one order date left before Christmas break

Monday, December 16th

Sign up online with RaiseRight and download the Raise Right app.

www.raiseright.com Enrollment code: F8CLL9AF2577

Customer Service: 1-800-727-4715

Make your list and get your orders ready!!



Good Shepherd students are invited to showcase their literary talents at the 34th 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 21, 2025

K-8 Tuition Assistance

Step 1: Complete application online through FACTS

- <https://online.factsmgt.com/grant-aid/inst/4FG82/landing-page>

Step 2: Submit payment for application (\$40)

Step 3: Submit **ALL 2024** tax documents by April 10

- Applicant & co-applicant must submit tax docs
- Taxes do not have to be filed, but must be prepared and uploaded to application

Step 4: CHECK EMAIL

- FACTS representatives will email if documentation is missing. Please respond as soon as possible and **check your junk folder** for FACTS emails.
- Tips on uploading a document can be found at www.lesastl.org

Required Documentation

- 2024—1040 Tax Form (page 1 & 2)
- 2024 W2
- Business Income docs
 - ⇒ Schedule 1—5, C, E, K, etc.
- Non-taxable docs
 - ⇒ Child support, SNAP, TANF, Social Security

Do You Qualify?

1. If **at least 10% of income from 2024** is used to cover the cost of a child/children's Lutheran K-8 **net tuition**
2. Child/children must be enrolled at the school by April 30 to be eligible for a scholarship during the May awards

Questions???

FACTS Parent Line: 1.866.315.9262

LESA Office: 314.200.0790

Email: mgersman@lesastl.org

Website: lesastl.org

Deadline: April 10, 2025

Lutheran Elementary School Association (LESA)

LESA equips Lutheran schools, families, and communities with resources to expand God's Kingdom.

Theme Class Baskets



❖ PK3 – Family Game Night

- Ideas: Board games, Puzzles, Snacks, Scoreboard

❖ PK4 – Family Fun Day Basket

- Ideas: gift cards to local attractions: Edisons, Trampoline Park, Childrens Museums, Magic House, City Museum, Top Golf,
- Parents can chip in together for larger quantity gift cards.

❖ K – Outdoor Yard Games

- Ideas: Ladder Toss, Bocce Ball, Washers, Croquet, Giant Jenga, and many more
- Parents can chip in together for corn hole set or a basketball hoop.

❖ 1 – Sourdough Starter Kit Basket

- Ideas: Food scale, mixing bowls, special whisking tool, proofing bowls, warmer pad, aprons, mason jars, oils, jams, recipe,
- Parents can chip in together to buy a proofing box.

❖ 2 – Coffee Basket

- Ideas: Mugs, Coffee, Syrups, Local Coffee Gift Cards, Coffee scented candles, graphic coffee T-shirt (example: but first coffee...), etc.

❖ 3 – Summer/Grill Theme Basket

- Ideas: Beach towels, bubbles, Chalk, Water bottles, grilling accessories, tiki theme stuff, summer décor
- Parents can chip in together for a Yeti Cooler or Grill.

❖ 4 – Dinner Date Night Basket

- Ideas: Restaurant Gift Cards; Weekly Menu Board

❖ 5 – Spa / Wellness Basket

- Ideas: Bath salts/bombs, yoga mat, candles, journal, water bottle, small weights
- Parents can chip in together for a massage gift card.

❖ 6 – Book Lover's Basket

- Ideas: subscription, gift cards, book light, books, gift cards
- Parents can chip in together for Kindle.

❖ 7 – Local Sports Basket

- Ideas: Cardinals, Blues, City, Mizzou, Illini: apparel, gadgets, tumblers, etc.
- Parents can chip in together for box tickets to a sporting event.

❖ 8 – Outdoor Oasis Basket

- Ideas: outdoor rugs or pillows, string outdoor lights, potted plants,
- Parents can chip in together for a hammock or water fountain display.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL ANNUAL AUCTION



March 29, 2025

WE INVITE YOU TO HELP SUPPORT OUR CAUSE AND CHILDREN WE SERVE BY CONTRIBUTING TOWARD THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL(GSLs) AUCTION.

The purpose of GSLs is to provide each student with a quality Christian education, to see that each child develops to the fullest of his/her capabilities.

Proceeds from this year's auction will go towards updating the school's security camera system. Currently, the school has analog cameras, but would like to upgrade those to new IP cameras that will offer higher resolution and advanced features. The school would also like to add additional cameras to the school campus.

COMPLETE FORM AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL BEFORE MARCH 1, 2025

NAME / BUSINESS NAME:
DONATION DESCRIPTION OR SPONSORSHIP LEVEL:
VALUE OF DONATION:

How Can You Help?

Donating Items

Item Ideas Include:

- Basket of Goods
- Gift Cards
- Services: Tastings, Sports or Entertainment Tickets, Trips

Cash Sponsorships

\$300 Gold Level:

- **2 Admission tickets to the auction in March**
- Full page ad in event program*
- 1 month of your business logo in the weekly school newsletter
- 1 yard sign placed on the school lawn for 1 month.

\$150 Silver Level:

- Half page ad in event program*
- Social media shoutout on both school Facebook pages
- Name on table at the event

\$75 Bronze Level:

- Business card or business logo in event program
- Social media shoutout on both school Facebook pages

*Additional \$50 if you would like for us to create an ad for you.

TAX ID: #37-0841452

Donated Items/Checks can be mailed to: Good Shepherd Lutheran School, 1300 Beltline Rd, Collinsville, IL 62234

Email business ad/logo to: Michelle at Matuszewski.michelle@gmail.com