



Good Shepherd Charger News

"In His Hands" Isaiah 49:16

All School Newsletter
March 14, 2025

Charger Headlines...

Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 16

- 5th and 6th Grades sing in 10:30 a.m. church service
- 7th and 8th Gr. sing in 8:00 a.m. church service

Tuesday, March 18

- Fredbird and Friends Assembly Kdg-5th Grade 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 20

- Chapel Service 8:25 a.m. (Gr 2-8)
- Chapel Service 8:55 a.m. (ECC-Gr1)

Friday, March 21

- NO SCHOOL - School Improvement Day

Sunday, March 23

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

Thursday, March 27

- Chapel Service 8:25 a.m. (Gr 2-8)
- Chapel Service 8:55 a.m. (ECC-Gr1)

Saturday, March 29

- GSLS Auction @ American Legion, Collinsville 5:00 p.m.

For more information:
gslcs.org/calendars



Shake, Rattle and Bid! - March 29th

We hope you can join us for the annual benefit auction on **March 29th**. Click [GS Auction](#), to buy your dinner tickets. If you are unable to come, we encourage you to still use the link to register and bid on the silent items.

Non-Uniform Punch Cards will be sold **ONLY** during the dinner event. These punch cards will give your child the opportunity to wear what they choose 5 times during the 2025-26 school year.

Sneak Peak: There are four trips/getaways to be auctioned off; one of them being a trip to Mexico to an all-inclusive, adults only resort! These trips are only offered at the live bidding event! Don't miss out on a fun evening!

Achievement Testing

Achievement tests will be given **March 31st-April 9th** to all students in Kindergarten through Grade Eight. Please help your child do their best by having enough rest and breakfast before coming to school.

St. Louis Cardinals Fredbird and Friends Assembly - Kdg-Gr. 5

On **Tuesday, March 18th** at 10am, Fredbird and Friends will be visiting our school for an assembly! Due to the Cardinals' rule, **only kindergarten through 5th grade students will be attending**. Be Active! Be Responsible! Be a Good Teammate!

Lutheran Honor Band

Congratulations to Trinity B. Liam D., Raelei B., Owen C., Chloe B., and Elle J. for being accepted into the Illinois Lutheran Honor Band-the all state Lutheran school band. They will travel to Concordia Lutheran School in Peoria on **Friday, March 21st** to perform a concert with Lutheran school band students from all over the state in the 20th annual Lutheran Honor Band Festival! Thank you for representing GSLS!

Madison County Band Festivals

Congratulations to the following students on their acceptance and participation in the Madison County Band Festivals in February!
Elementary Band: Aria M., Natalie S., Aiden B.
Junior High Band: Trinity B., Raelei B., Liam D., Elle J.
Jazz Band: Trinity B., Raelei B., Liam D., Elise T., Elle J.

Charger Headlines Continued...

Pastor's Corner - Pastor Packer

Last week, we saw how the devil tempts us to destroy our faith. This week, we see how the Lord tests us to strengthen our faith. The Gospel reading for this Sunday illustrates three tests the Lord often sends our way as we see the Canaanite woman's interactions with Jesus. The three tests we will consider are: external chaos, the silent treatment (does God care?), and feeling unworthy of the Lord's gifts and blessings. Join us!



IL HB2827 - Parent Call to Action

A bill currently under consideration in the Illinois legislature, H.B. 2827, would have detrimental effects on Lutheran schools as well as those who homeschool their children. It would limit educational resources, restrict teachers and schools, and negatively impact students. **What can you do?**

Over the next 5-6 days, write a letter stating the reason(s) for your opposition and mail it to Rep. Katie Stuart at her district office, 2105 Vandalia St., Unit #16, Collinsville, 62234, her Springfield office, 278-S Stratton Office Building Springfield 62706 and to her email repkatiestuart@gmail.com. Also ask others to write letters! You can also visit her office(s) in person. Contact the other members of the Education Policy Committee by phone or email using this link: [Education Policy](#)

Also use this [link](#) to complete a witness slip: Section I, complete the ID section inserting Good Shepherd as the Agency, and, Parent, as your title. Skip Section II. Section III, choose Opponent. Section IV, select Written Statement Filed. Check Agree box. Create Slip. You may complete as many witness slips as you like.

For more info, see the LCMS IL Districts letter that follows newsletter.

Spelling Bee

Elise T. recently represented Good Shepherd at the St. Louis Regional Spelling Bee Qualifier at St. Louis University. She correctly spelled 23 out of 25 words! This valiant effort did not qualify her for the next round, which is hard to imagine. We are grateful for her willingness to participate in this tough challenge. Well done, Elise!



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 Spencer O., Alison P., Ethan P., Gavin S., Gus S., Noah W., and Elliot Y.

Please join us in prayer.

Something to Consider...

How do Challenges shape my life?

My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else...In fact, my visit in you has been delayed as long because I have been preaching in these places.

- Romans 15:20-22

Paul's vision for preaching God's good news in different places always drove him to unfamiliar challenges and therefore to greater growth in his relationship with God. Challenges keep you from becoming comfortable and satisfied with the status quo. They require you to follow God's leading into uncharted waters. Let the challenges you face in life give you the faith to try something new and to trust that God is taking you somewhere that you will love where you can make a real difference.

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...

2025-2026 School Calendar

The Board of Education approved the school calendar for next year. It follows this newsletter and can also be found on the school website: <https://www.gslcs.org/calendars/>

Lutheran Middle School Dance

All 6th-8th grade students are invited to join middle school students from area Lutheran schools at the 2nd Chance Dance being held in the school gym at Metro East Lutheran High School on **Saturday, April 5th** from 6-9 p.m. The night will include DJ, drinks, snacks, photo booth, games, contests and prizes. Additionally, they're looking for parent volunteers who are interested in helping with planning, chaperoning, or contributing funds for snacks, drinks, prizes, etc. There is a sign-up genius for the event. Please click the link below to sign up to help.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4EACA929A6F5CF8-55628649-2ndchance#/>

The sponsors thank you so much for your support and look forward to a memorable event for the students!

2025-2026 Tuition Scholarships

Scholarship applications for LESA's Building Blocks Assistance and Good Shepherd Church and School are available **NOW** through FACTS. (Flyer follows newsletter)

Position Openings at Good Shepherd for 2025-26

Teachers

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is accepting applications for Christian teacher positions in grades K-8. We are planning for the 2025-26 school year and will be looking for teachers. Good Shepherd is a special, unique Christian school having strong commitment to the quality education and Christian training of the lambs of our Good Shepherd. Teachers shall have, at minimum, a bachelor's degree in education with a teaching license. Applicants should have good communication, organizational skills, leadership qualities, and a love for children. A more complete job description is available in the school office. Please contact Mr. Mayhew at 618-344-3153 or gsls1@hotmail.com, if you are interested or know of anyone who may be an excellent candidate.

Physical Education Teacher

We're excited to announce an opening for a PE Teacher (Grades K-8) at our school! We're seeking an energetic leader who thrives on teamwork and is passionate about inspiring students to embrace physical activity. If you have a knack for fostering a love of movement and are interested in coaching volleyball or other sports, we want to hear from you! Teachers shall have, at minimum, a bachelor's degree in education with a teaching license. Please contact Mr. Mayhew at gsls1@hotmail.com or 618-344-3153 to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

Teacher Aides

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is receiving resumes for teacher aide positions. The part-time positions will work with the Early Childhood and Day School teachers for the 2025-26 school year. Seeking a dedicated person who loves children, who can follow instructions, work cooperatively with others and be a self-starter. Please contact Mrs. Nobbe or Mr. Mayhew at 344-3153 or rnobbe@gslcs.org or gsls1@hotmail.com

Celebrating **41** *Years of Christian Education*
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A Joint Statement

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

As Christians, we live not only under God's grace in His right hand kingdom of the Church, but we confess with His Holy Word that those in authority in His left hand (or civil) kingdom are God's servants for our good. (Romans 13:1-7) Within our freedom of the Gospel, we counsel those in authority to walk in godly ways and rule according to God's measure of righteousness and good order.

While we recognize that a well educated citizenry equips the people of the this state to serve one another in love, the measures proposed in HB 2827 overstep the bounds of decency to achieve that goal. Called "The Homeschool Act," this proposal has far reaching implications beyond homeschooling that could adversely effect the autonomy of our congregational and association schools, as well. Our partners, such as the Illinois Coalition of Nonpublic Schools, Illinois Christian Home Educators, the Association of Christian Schools International, and the Catholic Conference of Illinois well document concerning measures, such as the requirement to provide confidential/personal student information to state authorities, require the registration/recognition of non-public schools by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the submission of curriculum for ISBE review and approval, and (contrary to the 2012 US Supreme Court decision *Hosanna Tabor v. EEOC* 565 U.S. 171) establishing state mandated requirements for who may teach in our Lutheran (and other non-public or home) schools.

While these concerns are certainly sufficient to cause concern, what troubles us the most is the presupposition behind this bill that disregards the fundamental, 4th Commandment principle that schools, and even the state itself, are extensions of office and vocation of parent. On March 4, this bill was referred to the Education Policy Subcommittee. Please contact your own legislators, or the [members of the committee](#) (click link for a list of those members) and encourage them to vote no on this harmful bill.

God bless your Lenten disciplines as we journey with our Lord to His atoning sacrifice upon the cross, the glorious proclamation of salvation in the resurrection and empty tomb, and His sovereign reign over all of creation in His ascension.

Rev. Dr. Allan Buss
President
Northern Illinois District

Rev. Michael Mohr
President
Central Illinois District

Rev. Heath Curits
President
Southern Illinois District

Mrs. Lois Stewart
Education Executive
Northern Illinois District

Mr. Trip Rodgers
Education Executive
Central Illinois District

Mr. Jeffrey Fick
Education Executive
Southern Illinois District

2025-2026

Good Shepherd Lutheran School

1300 Beltline Road

Collinsville, IL

Phone: 618-344-3153

Fax: 618-344-3156

August '25						
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June '26						
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July '26						
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- Aug 12 Welcome Back Night at 6-8 pm- Grades K-8
- Aug 14 Athletic Parent Meeting at 6:30 pm- Gr. 5-8
- Aug 14 Classes Begin - Preschool - Grade 8
- Aug 29 No School - LESA School Improvement Day
- Sep 01 No School - Labor Day
- Oct 02 No School - LEA Teacher Conference
- Oct 03 No School - LEA Teacher Conference
- Oct 13 No School - Columbus Day
- Oct 17 End of 1st Quarter - 42 days
- Oct 30 No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Oct 31 No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov 26 No School - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 27 No School - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 28 No School - Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 19 End of 2nd Quarter - 40 days
- 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 26 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 02 No School - Christmas Break
- Jan 5 School Resumes
- Jan 19 No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb 16 No School - President's Day
- Mar 6 End of 3rd Quarter - 43 days
- Mar 13 No School - School Improvement Day
- Mar 30 No School - Easter Break
- Mar 31 No School - Easter Break
- Apr 01 No School - Easter Break
- Apr 02 No School - Easter Break
- Apr 03 No School - Easter Break
- Apr 06 No School - Easter Break
- May 21 Last Day of School - End of 4th Qt. - 47 days
- May 21 8th Grade Graduation - at 6:30 pm
- May 26 Summer Fun Begins
- Jul 03 Summer Fun Closed - Observance of July 4

SHAKE * RATTLE
& Bid
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN SCHOOL
2025 BENEFIT AUCTION

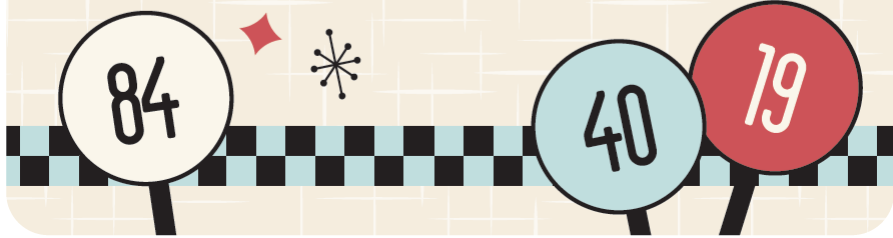
March 29, 2025 · 5pm

American Legion *
Collinsville, IL



Scan to
Purchase Tickets

Email gs.auctioncommittee@gmail.com
for seating requests or questions.



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

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.