



# Shepherd's

February 2024 Newsletter

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,  
Oak Park IL Volume 59, Number 2

# STAFF

## Lent 2024

### Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter



This Lent we take a deeper dive into our own faith journey. On Sundays in worship, we explore the topic of faith by hearing of Peter's encounters with

Jesus. Wednesdays give time for contemplative practices and music. In small groups, we dive deeper with Brian McLaren's book *"Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It."* Viewing the documentary, *American Symphony*, gives real-life situations to consider. Through it all, we dive deeply into our personal faith journey, understanding that while God is always near, sometimes life circumstances damage the piers that hold up our faith. When that happens, we might patch things up, or at other times we might go for a complete rebuild.

#### Ash Wednesday: February 14

Worship at 7:30p (also Livestreamed)

Once again, we are reminded of the finitude of our existence—not to frighten us into faithfulness, but to remind us that we make choices every day. These choices guide our faith journey. Only the dead cannot change. Ashes and communion will be distributed during worship. If you are participating virtually and wish ashes, pick them up in advance or contact the office.

#### Lenten Supper & Worship: February 21 – March 20

Wednesdays 6:30-7:30p Light Supper;

7:30-8:00p Meditative Worship

Whether you can make one day, or the series - whether you can just eat and run or stay for worship – join us on

Wednesdays in Lent. The meals are simple, placing the focus on conversation. The worship is simple, placing the focus on pausing with God. There is nothing simple about how you'll feel after participating.

#### February 17 at 5:00p:

*American Symphony Watch Party*

Faith journeys never exist in a vacuum, but within our ordinary living – work, play, and rest are all a part of the journey. Together, we will watch and discuss the documentary, *American Symphony*, which follows the lives of Jon



Batiste and Suleika Jaouad through their journeys with euphoric highs, devastating lows, and everything in-between. The movie gives our discussion about how life's journey intersects with our faith journey a sense of reality. Can't join the watch party on February 17? There will be options to watch the Netflix movie on your own and participate in a zoom discussion or individual study.

#### Small Group Study: *Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It*

Beginning the week of February 18, you are invited to participate in a group discussion of the book, *Faith After Doubt*. There will be at least one in-person and one online group. Share your interest in joining on the Sunday Prayers and More Sheet, and we will contact you.

#### Daily Devotion

Print copies will be available the first Sunday of February. Our friends at A Sanctified Art (the creators of our Lent resources) have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Lenten devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/1072485778/>. In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Sunday School News

Thanks to our parents for being flexible over the last few weeks as classes have moved and combined during our time serving as a warming center and as we set up for the Annual Meeting! You are appreciated! We anticipate a “normal” February and look forward to seeing our Sunday School kids here!

## Vacation Bible School



It’s that time of year when we start dreaming about Vacation Bible School! Our dates are June 17-21 (tentatively 5-8p), and our theme is SCUBA: Diving Into

Friendship with God! As we look ahead, we will need leaders for Games, Music, Bible Storytelling (drama), and Video. If you are interested in leading one of those areas, please speak with Deaconess Debbie soon! As we get closer, we’ll be asking for lots (!) of additional volunteers. Help us make an impact in our kids’ lives through VBS!

## Middle School/Confirmation Schedule

Confirmation classes will meet every Sunday in February as we continue to explore the Old Testament.

Tuesday meetings in February will be on Feb 6 and 20.

*Don’t forget to be working on your family sermon notes!*

## Enchanted Castle Lock In

Middle and High Schoolers are invited to attend the annual Lock In at Enchanted Castle. This synod-wide event is a favorite of the students!



The date is March 1, 10:00p through March 2, 5:00a. Cost is \$40 per student (scholarship funds available). If you’d like to attend, contact Deaconess Debbie. Drivers and/or additional chaperones are needed!

## Welcome to Worship & Milestone Ministry



Milestones are moments in a person’s life that are recognized for their significance. Although milestones can mark positive or negative experiences, there is usually some learning we receive leading up to, or as a result of, that milestone. In the church we celebrate milestones such as baptism, first communion, confirmation, marriage, etc. I want to expand our milestones, both for children and adults, in order to help us bring God into—or rather see that God already is in—even the smaller moments in our journey of faith.

To that end, our Kindergarten, first, and second graders recently joined me for a Welcome to Worship



milestone. Students received teddy bears and as they learned about the parts of the sanctuary space and worship service, they helped their bears learn too. Carl talked with the children about church music and gave them a special treat by letting them try out some notes on the organ!

Look for more milestones to be introduced in the months and years ahead—things like entering middle school, getting your first driver’s license, becoming an empty nester, and retiring. Each milestone is marked with a tangible object and a blessing.

—Deaconess Debbie

## High School Youth

With the Youth Gathering coming up this summer, the news from the ELCA planners has been coming in fast and furious! We recently found out that we can only use clear bags and backpacks in the Superdome and convention center. We have our plane tickets purchased, and we have been assigned to the Hilton New Orleans Riverside—right along the Mississippi!



Are you a frequent New Orleans visitor? Share your favorite restaurants with us!

You can also help us raise funds AND share your Good Shepherd spirit by ordering a tshirt, long-sleeved tee, or sweatshirt from us. (See below.)

*Students going to the Gathering: Plan to attend our next planning meeting on Sunday, February 25, following the second service (around 11:45a).*

## Good Shepherd Gear Fundraiser!

Show your Good Shepherd spirit and support our youth at the same time! Our high schoolers are selling t-shirts, long-sleeved tees, and hoodies with the Good Shepherd logo as a fundraiser for our trip to New Orleans this summer!

Go to [tinyurl.com/GSLCtshirt](https://tinyurl.com/GSLCtshirt) or scan the QR code below to place your order. You can opt to have your items delivered to church or pay for direct shipping. We are taking orders through February 13, with an estimated print date of March 1. *Colors are as shown below.*

Prices (extended sizes add extra cost):

Youth/Adult T-shirt	\$20
Youth/Adult Long Sleeved Tee	\$25
Youth/Adult Hoodie	\$35
Toddler/Child T-shirt	\$15



## Sunday Morning Bible Study

All are welcome to join in our Sunday Morning Bible Study, Sundays at 9:15a. On February 4, we invite you to join us for our monthly First Sunday Forum. Regular Bible Study resumes on February 11.

## First Sunday Forum

Join us for a once a month opportunity to explore a topic of interest more deeply. Presentations are typically made by Good Shepherd members, but we are open to your speaker suggestions. All are welcome at our Forums!

### Living the Christian Life in India Sunday, February 4, 2024, 9:15a

#### Presenter: Ruth Mortha

The forum welcomes Good Shepherd member Ruth Mortha, who will describe the joys and challenges of living as a Christian in a country where only four percent of the majority Hindu population is Christian. She is a member of the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (one of several Lutheran church bodies in India), which is the third largest Lutheran church body in the world.



### African American History and Stories in Oak Park Sunday, March 3, 9:15a

#### Presenter: Peggy Tuck Sinko, GS member and president ex-officio of the Oak Park-River Forest Historical Society

African Americans have been residents of Oak Park since the late 19th century, but their stories are often overlooked. Some still believe that there were no African Americans in the Village before the arrival of the Percy Julian family. Peggy will highlight some of these stories, with an emphasis on the role of religious leaders and institutions, from the formation of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church by Black residents (1905-1930) to the upheavals of the Civil Rights and Fair Housing movements of the 1960s and 1970s. She is the co-author of *Suburban Promised Land: The Emerging Black Community in Oak Park, 1880-1980* (2009).



Scan me to buy a tee!





## GS CONNECTS

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Linda Bostrom  
Pete Chapman  
Ava Killingsworth  
Paul Frost  
Adalyn Sherwin  
Christina Morrow  
Lucas Schattauer  
Pat Heine  
Barbara Hunt  
Troy Koch  
Willa Dolan  
Julie Ledogar  
Lane Ledogar  
Lisa Neubert  
Al Theys  
Graham Deamer  
Brad Schwarz  
Eli Hedlund  
Sue Olson  
Eric Svensson  
Devin Hayes  
Sophia Mortha  
Kelly Moreland  
Dan Eppley  
Briana Killingsworth

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Kenn and Peggy Sinko  
Lynn and Bevin Zamora

#### Our Lenten Pinata is Back!

As the season of Lent begins, we'll be introducing this year's pinata! Using a traditional pinata figure, we will learn more about the cultures of our new neighbors seeking asylum AND raise funds for Good Shepherd's migrant ministry!



### Daytimers

Daytimers has planned a day of service. On February 20, we will travel to New Moms in Chicago to organize and pack food boxes for clients. We will meet at church at 10a. We will return to the Oak Park area for lunch. On March 12, we will travel to Greek Town to visit the National Hellenic Museum and then have lunch at Artopolis. For more information contact Barb Hunt at clownbarb@sbcglobal.net.

### Book Club

Flock o'Readers will meet February 28 at 2:30p at church to discuss books about libraries and librarians. New members are always welcome. For more information contact Barb Hunt at clownbarb@sbcglobal.net.

### Whiskey with Cocktail Historian, Dave Hudson

Is it Whiskey or Whisky? (*spoiler: the spelling isn't really a big deal*)

Bourbon, Scotch, Rye, and much more - this is a great chance to learn about the ins and outs of the world of whisk(e)ys from spirits and cocktail historian Dave Hudson. Last year, Dave led us through the intricacies of gin and martinis. This year we will focus on the fascinating world of whiskey. By the end of the night, you'll have a deeper understanding and appreciation of this fascinating spirit.

Join us on **Saturday, March 2** at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall for this exciting experience. There will be a charge of \$18 that covers the whiskeys being served. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer to share. Not a whiskey drinker but want to join in the fun and learn about whiskey? We will have wine and soft drinks for you. There is a charge of \$8 for the non-whiskey drinkers. Tickets are available from Barb Hunt on Sundays or online at the Good Shepherd website. Click "Get Involved" and go to "Store."

### Relationship Sunday

Building relationships is a value at Good Shepherd. That's why we celebrate the relationship you build with your life partner. If this year you celebrate an anniversary divisible by 5, we want you in worship on Sunday, February 11 to receive a blessing. We also ask that you dig up that wedding photo and a current photo and either send them digitally to the office or drop it in the office mailbox by February 4. (Don't worry, we'll get them back to you.)



# SOCIAL MINISTRY

## Migrant Ministry Update

### Need Assistance? Our Migrant Friends Can Help!

Did you know Good Shepherd members are now accompanying nearly 25 migrants, including the family of 5 we are about to move into an apartment? We are assisting 3 families in Oak Park, one in Austin (due to have a baby in February!), and four young people living in homes. Our migrant friends are experiencing their first winter in the Midwest. BRRRR!

There is little or no government support available for them, nor do they have work permits allowing them to seek employment so they can support themselves. Although we are working to help them obtain legal status and work permits, it is unlikely that this will happen quickly. It is crucial that we help them to become economically stable.

All are literate in Spanish and are very adept in communicating with non-Spanish speakers using Google Translate on their cellphones. They are very capable, friendly, reliable, and hard-working!! They come with experience.

We ask that you consider allowing one or more of them to help you. Some examples:

- ◆ Snow shoveling
- ◆ Men’s hair cutting
- ◆ Women’s hair braiding and/or coloring
- ◆ In-home services: cleaning and laundry/cooking and catering/childcare/elder care
- ◆ Trash pickup and removal
- ◆ Home repair and redecorating
- ◆ Drywall/painting
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Furniture moving
- ◆ Yard maintenance (later in the Spring)

Let us know what other needs you might have, and we will try to match you with someone in this group. We hope that you will consider paying them at least \$15-20/ hour for this help—more depending on the work. (Unfortunately some have already experienced unscrupulous people taking advantage of their situation.)

Talk to those of us who are accompanying them and are familiar with their work: Peggy Kragie, Susan Kurtenbach, Mary and Meinrad Scherer-Emunds, Joan and Phil Taylor, Scott White. We can introduce you to them and help arrange transportation.

Or talk to other current and former members who have used their services: Betsy Bowen and Kevin Olson, Susan Greeley, Rose Mabwa, Dave Roth, Bob and Marnie Rourke.



Meinrad gets a haircut

### Pastor Kathy is Working on Placing Three Families with Other Lutheran Congregations

Several of us formed relationships with migrant families who were housed at Good Shepherd in November 2023. Pastor Kathy is working hard to find new homes for them in other suburbs. We will keep you updated.

### Cooking Class

Dreaming of sunny South America during these cold months? Yirari will lead a Latin American cooking class in February. Details to come.

### Serving Lunch at Bethel

In February will be serving lunches at Bethel in West Garfield Park on Thursday, February 22. Meet at church at 10:30a. For more information, contact Pastor Kathy.



## Racial Justice: Supporting Black Owned Businesses

At the December First Sunday Forum, presented by Anti-Racism co-chairs Rose Mabwa and Paul Pedersen, we discussed new ways to increase the Good Shepherd community's involvement in equity and justice work.

One idea was to support Black-owned businesses. Here are two businesses in Oak Park, owned by Black women, that you may want to support:

### Addis Café

801 S Oak Park Avenue

Facebook: @Addis Cafe

Owner: Kalki Tesfaye

Open 7a to 2p Tuesday through Sunday



This coffee shop, a fixture on south Oak Park Avenue for eight years, features a wide range of coffee drinks and food options, from warm cornmeal scones to sweet or savory waffles, avocado toast, and seasonal specials.

Owner and operator Kalki, whose first name means “Promise,” is originally from Ethiopia. She is a warm and welcoming presence who makes everyone feel at home, whether they are a first-time visitor or one of her many regular customers. With ample seating indoors (and out during warmer months) Addis Café is a great place to work remotely or meet up with friends for a leisurely visit.

### Civinte Candle Bar

807 S Oak Park Avenue

www.civinte.com

Owner: Dr. Cheryl P. Washington

Open 11a to 7p Tuesday through Saturday



Cheryl and daughter Breana

For a fun, creative and aromatic experience, visit Civinte Candle Bar to craft your own uniquely scented candle or peruse pre-made versions with eye-catching names like “Not Today,” “Suit & Tie,” “Idris,” and “Tease Me.”

Dr. Cheryl welcomes individuals and groups, offering expert advice and direction for those seeking to make their own signature candles in vessels large or small that are made to be refilled over time. Private group events like Ladies Nights, birthday celebrations, and team building are a key component of the Civinte business model. But you can also drop in without reservations to create not only candles but room sprays and reed diffusers too.

—Sheila Haennicke



This year's annual congregation meeting included Pastor Kathy's now-famous chili, thanks and gifts to outgoing Council members, a strong financial picture, and our inaugural game of “Good Shepherd-y!”



## Reflection from Leslie Marino

I look out the kitchen window, a lot, at our trees, the sky and Good Shepherd. I've been looking at it now for forty years – unbelievable, and am still grateful to be in a crowded suburb and have such a view.



This past week each evening I've been gladdened by the lights on in the basement... lights which assure me that the homeless are being kept safe in the bitter cold. Proud of our community that says, "of course," rather than, "we can't."

I believe homes have a sort of soul—perhaps spirit is a better word—and that our church building has a kind and protective spirit, large enough to hold many and small enough to encourage the personal. There really isn't anything "grand" about her, no huge bell tower or frescoes. She's just got good basic bones.

On Sundays, she thrives on music and she's joyous for weddings, she's dignified for funerals, and currently is enjoying the little ones creating happy havoc in the playground.

Inviting...Recently I had lunch with a new member and asked how she came to choose Good Shepherd. She said that each time she and her partner walked by she would admire the building. When they decided it was time to find a church, they came to Good Shepherd first and as soon as they walked in, they knew it was home.



No surprises to me, it has felt like that to me for years.

Anyway, that evening, looking out our kitchen windows, I whispered "Good Job," not just to our congregation but also to our ordinary, yet extraordinary good-spirited building. It shelters, protects and nourishes...it has, it is and thanks to a loving congregation, it will continue to do so.

If it could talk, it would say, "Thanks for my beautiful landscaping and, oh yeah – all the new fire protection and safety equipment. They're greatly appreciated."

# JAZZ PRAYER

**February 16, 7:30p**



*The theme for Jazz Prayer in February is Be Love-ed. Deep within us we know that our ability to love others is dependent on our ability to feel loved. Love and Love-Ed, they are forever linked. When our belovedness from God seeps within, our ability to be loving expands. Let's explore this more with music, word, and prayer.*

Doors open at 7:10p for making connections. Music starts at 7:30p. Bring a friend – bring an appetizer – mostly, bring yourself.

## TITHE.LY: Give Anywhere from Any Device



Tithe.ly is an easy way for you to donate to Good Shepherd. Download the app on your smartphone or go to your computer and search for Tithe.ly. Once you have found the app and logged on, look for Good Shepherd Church. Use it to make your contributions to the church via mobile, text, or web.

## ELCA Social Statement Input Wanted



How as Lutherans should we understand our relationship to civic life — including government — as individuals and as a church body? After studying the questions for the past three years, a social statement task force has posted a draft social statement on civic life and faith.

Social statements are important documents because they govern church teaching and policies, and support ministries. They also serve as discernment tools for ELCA members as they think about social issues such as civic life.

Between now and Sept. 30, 2024, you are invited to study and give feedback on the draft by filling out an [online survey](#) or attending a hearing in your synod, as available. To access the draft and the survey, and to find information on how to host a hearing in your synod, go to [www.elca.org/civicsandfaith](http://www.elca.org/civicsandfaith) or contact the Good Shepherd church office.

After the feedback period has closed, the task force will revise the draft with attention to the public input and submit a proposed version of the social statement to the ELCA Church Council, which will vote on sending it to the ELCA 2025 Churchwide Assembly for consideration. If adopted at the assembly by a two-thirds margin, the social statement will become official social teaching of this church.

May God's Spirit, which seeks the well-being of all in civic life, guide you in your reading, reflection, and response.

Rev. Roger Willer, Director, Theological Ethics  
Rev. Carmelo Santos, Director, Theological Diversity and Engagement

## New Identity for LIRS

As Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service enters its 85th year, they are beginning a new chapter in the history of their organization. As of January 17, 2024, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is now Global Refuge:



“Our decision to rebrand is rooted in the massive worldwide need for compassionate support of those seeking safety. With more than 100 million people displaced by war, famine, climate change, and persecution, our mission of providing the “long welcome” is more crucial than ever. Our Board knew we needed to build a bigger table of supporters.

“The Global Refuge brand fittingly conveys our mission of providing safety and support to refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants from across the world. As our new identity makes us more accessible to clients, partners, and supporters, it leaves unchanged our core vision: to foster a world of just and welcoming communities, informed by our Lutheran heritage and decades of experience. Our faith-based identity remains integral to our organization, reflecting the spirit of love that shapes our work of welcome and strengthens our relationships with Lutheran communities and congregations, as well as with ecumenical, nondenominational, and inter-faith partners.”

## Learning Communities by LSTC

Join the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago's (LSTC) Learning Communities 2024. These are no-cost theological education programs via Zoom designed to enhance theological education. You can register at [www.lstc.edu/events](http://www.lstc.edu/events).



## Liturgy and the Natural World

Join LSTC faculty member Dr. Benjamin M. Stewart for an inspiring 4-part series on nature and liturgy. Reimagine communal liturgies and daily rituals as you explore the sacredness of the cosmos, sacraments, and our bodies. Sunday sessions begin April 7; Wednesday sessions begin April 10.



## FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

### Why do you/we sing?

I once posed this question to members of a choir I directed in Wheaton, IL. Responses varied widely due to personal experiences but one thing they shared in common was *passion*. They were deeply moved by singing in community. Sometimes it was about joy; other times about sorrow. It isn't necessarily true that music alone is a reason to be passionate about singing. Other things about the experience of making music, whether playing, singing, or even listening help to explain why passion, joy and sorrow coexist.

*Beyond words.* There are times when words fail to express what one feels. Making music can 'complete the thought,' so to speak in ways words alone cannot. It is pretty common for one to feel more deeply while making or listening to music, and this doesn't really depend on musical intelligence. When I was much younger, I remember times in church when certain hymns helped my spirit soar or moved me to tears. This was before I had much music training. It's hard to explain why music functions in this way, but many people have this experience. Music amplifies emotional states and acts as a means of self- and soul-expression.

*A memory aid.* Deaconess Debbie asked me to talk to some of the children gathered for Sunday school recently about why we have hymns in church. They were quite aware of the presence of hymns and that they help us worship and teach us about God. The texts of great hymns are wonderful expressions--poetic, credal, doctrinal--that tend to stick when put to music. How often do you find yourself humming or thinking of a tune and the words that come along with it? Choir members report this happening frequently. Young children learn their ABC's to music, Schoolhouse Rock taught many of us about grammar, numbers, multiplication, and even the Bill of Rights. Music helps important concepts stick in our memories.

*Singing promotes well-being.* A study from the University of Frankfurt measured the effects of singing on the immune system and found that singers, as opposed to listeners, had higher levels of antibodies in their bloodstream after an hour of rehearsal. Oxytocin, which alleviates anxiety and stress, is released while singing. Singing is a physical workout



Dr. Carl Heine



Above: Carl leads the choir. Below: Carl lets children try out the organ.

that promotes good posture and breathing. In a group setting, singers' heartbeats become synchronized. Music isn't a cure for whatever ails you, but there are physical and emotional benefits.

I'm pleased that Good Shepherd is what I would call a 'singing church.' We fill the sanctuary with our voices, we're not limited to what we already know, we sing in harmony, and we don't falter when I stop accompanying. That's not very common, and this is the only church in my career where I've experienced it. All the benefits of singing are present when we come together. I've touched on three. Perhaps you can think of more: Why do you sing?



## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

611 Randolph, Oak Park, IL 60302  
708-848-4741 | [goodshepherdilc.org](mailto:churchoffice@goodshepherdilc.org)  
[churchoffice@goodshepherdilc.org](mailto:churchoffice@goodshepherdilc.org)

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (mcselca.org) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org).*

### Staff 708-848-4741

Rev. Kathy Nolte, Pastor (ext. 2)  
Rev. Kerstin Hedlund, Associate Pastor  
(leave message with Admin Asst)  
Deaconess Debbie Speer, Director  
of Christian Education (ext. 4)  
Dr. Carl Heine, Music Director  
Kimberly Adami-Hasegawa,  
Office Administrator (ext. 3)

### Council Officers

Gail Frost, President  
Scott White, Vice President, Personnel  
Richard Sehl, Secretary  
Dan Feiertag, John Jackson, Co-Treasurers

### Council Liaisons

Carrie Cook, Finance, Stewardship, Social  
Ministry  
Rose Mabwa, Property, Sustainability,  
Worship, Music, and the Arts  
Linda Thomas, Christian Education,  
GS Connects, Evangelism

### Committee Chairs

Christian Education – Kristin de Groot  
Evangelism – Marcy Moreno  
Finance – Laura Knitt  
GS Connects – Joan & Phil Taylor  
Property – Rich Novak  
Social Ministry – Mary Scherer-Emunds  
Stewardship – Mark Ledogar  
Sustainability – Michelle Sukup Jackson  
Worship, Music & Arts – Lynn Railsback

#### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:  
9:00a - 3:30p  
Friday: 9:00a - noon

Pastor is available  
by appointment:  
[calendly.com/revk](https://calendly.com/revk)

## From the Vice President

January 17, 2024

I hope that you all are staying warm during these cold and wintry days. Here are few items for your information and consideration.

Annual Staff Gifts: Your generosity shows up strong once again. You contributed \$1620 for the annual holiday gift for our talented and beloved team of professionals and volunteers. Thank you all so much for demonstrating your appreciation for their work and dedication.

Nursery Attendant: Deaconess Debbie continues to screen applicants for the position. We have two interviews scheduled in the next week, with candidates who present strong backgrounds in childcare and community activity. The process has been slow and somewhat aggravating, but I do believe that God's will is to have us find the right person to care for our children on Sunday mornings.

Our Building as Shelter: I can't begin to say how proud I am to be a part of this congregation. My employer, PCC Wellness Center, sent a message to its staff last week from the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board, signifying Good Shepherd as the Emergency Warming Shelter for our community. I was proud to respond, "That's my church!" We all recognize the importance of community for our personal and mutual well-being. A special note of appreciation for all of our members who serve as volunteers during these bitterly cold days. We are living examples of God's grace and mercy in this world!

Farewell: I have completed my three years on the Council, serving as Vice President. It has been an absolute hoot for me, and I look forward to spending Sunday mornings as a simple congregant for a while. Thank you all for welcoming me and allowing me to be your servant and friend.  
—Pete Chapman

## FINANCE UPDATE

Please Note: For privacy reasons, the website version of our monthly newsletter does not contain birthdates, Caring Shepherd prayer lists, personal contact information, or church financial information. If you would like a full newsletter by mail or email, please contact us at [churchoffice@goodshepherdilc.org](mailto:churchoffice@goodshepherdilc.org).

# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
	Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30a Worship 9:15a Christian Ed for all ages 10:30a Worship (in-person & livestreamed)				<b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 8p AA	
4 9:15a Forum 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA	5 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7:30p AA	6 7p Confirmation	7 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 7:15p Choir	8 7:30p WMA	9 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 8p AA	10
<b>Relationship Sunday</b> 11 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA	12 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7:30p AA	13 Pastor at Synod	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 14 Council Reports Due 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 7:30p Ash Wed. Worship 8:30p Choir	15 <b>Deadline: Newsletter</b>	16 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 12p Jazz Prayer Set-Up 7:30p Jazz Prayer 8p AA	17 <b>8a Men's Group</b> 5p American Symphony Viewing
18 10a Scratch Choir 1p Ray of Hope 7:30p AA	19 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 7p Council 7:30p AA	20 Pastor at Synod 10a Daytimers 7p Confirmation 7p Finance	21 7:30a Matins (Offsite) 6:30p Lent Meal 7:30p Lent Worship 8p Choir	22 10:30a GS to Bethel	23 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 8p AA	24 9a Council Retreat
25 11:45a Youth Trip 1p Ray of Hope 8p AA	26 10:30a Staff Meeting 12p Worship Planning 4:30p Witt. Rehearsal 7p Wittenberg Choir 7:30p AA	27 Pastor at Synod	28 7:30a Matins (Offsite) <b>2:30p Flock o' Readers</b> 6:30p Lent Meal 7:30p Lent Worship 8p Choir	29		



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
611 Randolph, Oak Park IL 60302

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

611 Randolph St, Oak Park

Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:30a

(10:30 service also livestreamed)

[www.GoodShepherdLC.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLC.org)

708.848.4741

[ChurchOffice@GoodShepherdLC.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@GoodShepherdLC.org)

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where our doors  
are open wide to people from all backgrounds.

We want to be a place of blessing. If you are just beginning to  
wonder about Christianity, this is a safe place to ask questions

and to explore possibilities. If you have been journeying with  
Christ for some time, this is a place to grow deeper in your walk

as a disciple. If you have wandered here and there or up and  
down in your spiritual journey, this is a place to speculate,

marvel, seek, and find.

And whether you live out your faith primarily through study,

meditation, emotional experience or social activism, you can find  
others at Good Shepherd who share your spiritual temperament.

This is a place of open doors, open minds, open hearts, open hands.