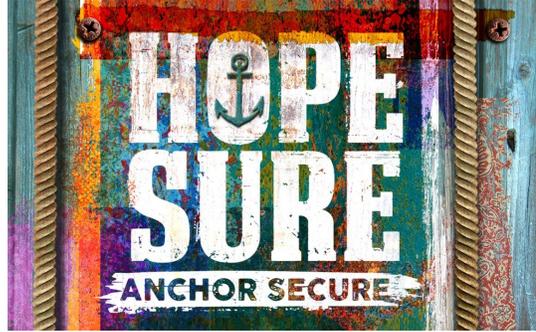


Good Shepherd Lutheran Elementary School (LES)

Annual Theme

What are your hopes for the future? You probably have certain things that you hope will take place in your personal life. They may be goals you want to accomplish or events that you wish to see happen. Parents and children have hopes for education. If there were successful undertakings in the past, they may hope that those things continue. If there were times of struggle or uncertainty, they may hope that those items will be fixed and not repeat themselves. Teachers hope for a positive school year as they work to accomplish goals they set, guide students in their earthly abilities and lives of faith, and build relationships with parents.



We all have things that we hope will happen in the future. But what happens if those hopes of ours don't fall into place? The reality of a sinful world is that dreams don't always come true. Our hopes often get crushed, and we can easily tend to get disappointed, show frustration, and maybe even become resentful. Our earthly hopes are just that...earthly hopes. There is no guarantee the things we hope for will definitely happen. No matter what our age, we all have past experiences where our hopes have been dashed. Those experiences may even have taught us not to hope for much in future just in case we end up setting ourselves up for more disappointment.

The good news...we have a school based on a hope that is guaranteed! Our theme for this past year was taken from Hebrews 6:19a: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." This hope is not based on anything earthly; it is based on our Savior - Jesus Christ. It is a hope that is sure. God keeps His promises. Throughout Scripture we see examples where God promised things to His people, and He always kept those promises - every single time!

What a comfort it is to know that God promises to watch over us and our children, bless our efforts on His behalf, give us opportunities that will help us grow and mature, make everything work out for our good, and guide all that takes place according to His will. What a comfort it is to know that through faith alone in Jesus as our Savior, we have the hope of eternal life in heaven even though we have done nothing to earn or deserve it. In a world that teaches there is no real truth and everything is relative, we have a secure anchor which keeps us firmly in place as the waves of this sinful world crash over us and our children. We have God's Word which guides us and comforts us as we see a faithful God who doesn't just let us drift off but gives us a Savior to serve as our spiritual anchor so that we can be firm and secure.

The winds of life blow, and the storms of a sinful world surround and batter our children, but each school day, they have God's Word to guide them and keep them focused on their Savior. The hope that Jesus gives them does not disappoint. May that be a comfort to all of us as our congregation continues to provide Christian education at Good Shepherd through our LES. Through Jesus, we do have Hope Sure - Anchor Secure!

Faculty and Staff

For the 2016-2017 school year our faculty consisted of Cheryl Streckert (part-time Preschool Director and teacher), Leah Samuelson (full-time preschool teacher), Kayla Fry (Kindergarten), Jodeen Britton (1st

grade), Becky Birr (2nd grade), Laura Pufahl (3rd grade, Music Coordinator), Justin Hansen (4th-6th grade), Bill Arndt (5th-8th grade, Athletic Director), David Retzlaff (7th-8th grade, Principal). We also had Julia Buller and Katrina Piller serve as part-time aides for preschool. Jean Flaherty served as our Kidz Club Director and also helped serve as a part-time aide for 3rd and 4th grade.

Mr. Justin Hansen joined our faculty this past school year after previously teaching at St. John's Lutheran School in Red Wing, MN. Justin's homeroom is the 4th grade, but he has helped teach grades 5-6 for a portion of the day as the teachers did some shifting to allow administrative time for our principal. We have appreciated the work that Justin has done for us and pray that the Lord continue to bless his efforts as he serves our students, parents, and congregation members at Good Shepherd.

With two years of increasing preschool enrollment, the Board of Child Discipleship recommended to the congregation that in the coming school year we add another part-time preschool teacher to give us more options for enrolling families. In early March Mrs. Joanie Arndt was issued a Call by the congregation for a part-time position as an additional teacher for our preschool program. We are thankful that she accepted that Call and will be joining our faculty. The plan for this coming school year will be to have Mrs. Streckert teach each morning and continue serving as our Preschool Director. This new position is to teach each afternoon allowing us to offer more 4-year-old options each day of the week. Joanie has a unique aspect to her Call as she is a member of Good Shepherd and has her husband, Bill, on the faculty. She had previously been serving as a part-time preschool teacher at Little Lambs Preschool in Inver Grove Heights.

During the school year, Laura Pufahl's husband, Casey, accepted a Call to teach at Milwaukee Lutheran High School. Laura then resigned her Call to Good Shepherd and eventually accepted a Call to teach at Trinity Lutheran School in Waukesha. We deeply thank Laura for the 14 years of faithful service which she provided to the school and congregation. We will miss being the recipients of her many gifts, but we pray the Lord will continue to bless her efforts as she serves her new calling.

The congregation issued to Calls to fill the vacant position that will be left by Laura. In March we called Miss Vicki Jensen from St. Paul's, Algoma, WI, and then in April we called Miss Audrey Metzger from Good Shepherd Academy in Deltona, FL. Both of those calls were returned, and in early June we Called Miss Cindy Lendt from St. John's, St. Paul, MN. We pray that the Lord will fill our vacant position and guide our faculty as they carry out their ministries to the congregation.

Accreditation

We fulfilled our needed tasks, maintained the goals we set in our strategic plan, and had our annual accreditation successfully renewed for another year. We worked to include the Vision 2020 items into our plan. The progress of our current strategic plan has been shared with our parents and is posted on our website. Please feel free to check out that plan and ask if you have any questions.

Each year, one of the most difficult tasks given to our BCD is setting tuition rates for our LES parents. Balancing financial needs of families with the goal of keeping our school's ministry sustainable for years to come is always a challenge as the BCD establishes tuition rates. Below are the tuition amounts approved for the 2017-2018 school year:

Annual Tuition Rates for 2017-2018

Preschool

Note: Session 1 goes from (8:15am-11:30am). Session 1 & 2 (8:15am-4:30pm)

2 days/week

Session 1 (8:15am-11:30am) \$1,360

Session 1 & 2 (8:15am-4:30pm) \$2,720

3 days/week

Session 1 \$1,750

Session 1 & 2 \$3,500

4 days/week

Session 1 \$2,525

Session 1 & 2 \$5,050

5 days/week

Session 1 \$3,160

Session 1 & 2 \$6,320

Grades K-8

Enrollment Fee \$150/child

1st Child \$2,862/year

2nd Child \$2,433

3rd Child \$2,003

Higher rates are set for parents who belong to another WELS/ELS congregation as well as parents who belong to another church body or have no church home. For our Good Shepherd members, the new rates reflect an 8% increase for the 1st child, a 26% increase for the 2nd child, and a 39% for a 3rd child. These increases are done with prayerful consideration as the BCD looks to balance as best they can financial support from tuition and from the congregation with the goal of working to keep our school financially sustainable for years to come.

As tuition rates increase, it is also important that the school and congregation increase amounts available for tuition assistance. During this current school year, we awarded over \$20,000 to families who requested financial assistance and validated that need through an independent review. We are happy to assist families that need it so that they can continue to send their children to our school and yet have the school fulfill its tuition commitment to the congregation's budget. We are continually looking for ways to keep this program sustainable so that many future families can benefit. Donations to the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and faithful use of the scrip program are extremely beneficial to this TAP's success. If you have not yet considered giving a gift to the Tuition Assistance Program or supporting the Scrip program through your personal use, please consider these options in the coming year. If you have contributed to these programs, your thoughtful contribution has been greatly appreciated!

LES Statistics

Preschool enrollment numbers as of September 2016:

	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Preschool A	17	10	1
Preschool B	21	12	2

Total Preschool	35 Students	63 Sessions	
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Kindergarten - Grade 8

Kindergarten = 10	Grade 3 = 17	Grade 5 = 9	Grade 7 = 13
Grade 1 = 14	Grade 4 = 13	Grade 6 = 8	Grade 8 = 8
Grade 2 = 20			Total K-8 = 112

- Children (K-8) from sister ELS/WELS congregations: 10 (9% of total enrollment)
- Children (K-8) from other Christian churches: 18 (16% of total enrollment)
- Children (K-8) with no church home: 2 (2% of total enrollment)
- Children (K-8) from Good Shepherd: 82 (73% of total enrollment)
- Percentage of Good Shepherd congregation children (K-8) attending our LES: 66%

Respectfully Submitted,
 Monty White - Board of Child Discipleship Chairman
 David Retzlaff – LES Principal

Our Mission

Preparing hearts and minds to grow in faith and academic excellence
 for future lives of Christian service and leadership.