

**Bible Studies
for
2018-2019**



**Good Shepherd's Ev. Lutheran Church
1235 S 100th Street, West Allis, WI 53214
414-774-1184
church@goodshepherds.net**

**I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.
(Psalms 119:15-16)**

All Adult Bible Studies meet downstairs in our church fellowship hall or in the small church meeting room and are about one hour in length unless otherwise noted.



Sunday Bible Studies (9:15am)

Reformations of the Sixteenth Century This four-week Bible course, led by Professor Joel Pless, will give participants some solid background on the various strands of the Protestant Reformation. The first session will examine early and medieval church history and study why a reformation was necessary. The next three sessions will study the work of the most significant Continental reformers: Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin.

September 9 –30

Proverbs Rev. Richard Agenten will lead this study of Proverbs. Wisdom: Who is the smartest person you know? But, are they wise? Having all the knowledge available doesn't necessarily make you wise. Knowledge that is not guided and built on that which comes from God, in the end is foolishness. Solomon, a man with true wisdom, shares this gift of God with us in his Book of Proverbs. We will delve into god's Word to grow in faith and wisdom..

October 7—November 11

Rev. John Lawrenz will lead a four week study to be announced
November 18—December 9

Geography and Topography of Israel and Jerusalem will be led by Pastor James Adermann. Five gospels record the life of Jesus. Four you will find in New Testament. One you will find in the land called holy. Journey with Pastor Jim Aderman, author of "A Chosen Land for a Chosen People" (NPH), to the Holy Land. Roam its hills, mountains, and valleys, its streams and seas, its deserts and fields.

Discover the Fifth Gospel, December 16, 23, and January 6.

The Last Times and the End of the World will be led by Professor John Brenner. Many people in America have strange ideas about death, heaven, hell, judgment day, Christ's return, and the signs of the end times. Even conservative Christians often fail to grasp what Scripture teaches concerning these things. People often want to say more than the Bible, or they twist Scripture to agree with their faulty thinking. In this six-lesson course we will examine what the Bible says so that we can understand both the warnings and the comfort our God intends for us. Among the topics we will consider are the signs of the end times, the doctrine of the Antichrist, death, what comes after death, the events of judgment day, the thousand-year reign in Revelation 20, and more.

January 13-February 17

Idol Worship Rev. Paul Prange guides us in a six week study of idol worship. We know what idols people worshipped in Bible times. Are they different today? What idols compete with the true God in our own hearts? Rev. Paul Prange leads a discussion of Christian living in the 21st century.

February 24-March 31

To a Startling Degree: The Doctrine of Vocation Prof. Michael Berg talks about the Doctrine of Vocation in this four week study. With the doctrine of vocation, Martin Luther flipped upside down the way society looked at work. No longer was there a hierarchy of importance (the clergy and nobility on top). Now everyday work was seen as important. What he rediscovered was St. Paul's passage in Ephesians chapter 2 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Every job matters and therefore every person matters. Not for the sake of making God happy (that's taken care of in Christ), but rather that we are used by God in his economy of love. We are lifted to a startling degree to become God's coworkers in everyday life.

April 7-28

Always be Prepared to Give an Answer Over four weeks Prof. Michael Berg will lead a study of apologetics. St. Peter urges us to “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” He was talking about apologetics, that is making a case for our faith. In this class we will hone our apologetic skills. The result will hopefully be three-fold:

- 1 - Our own faith will be strengthened as we think about our own doubts and the answers Christians have given to such questions.
- 2 - We in turn will grow more confident in our witnessing to others.
- 3 - We will show that we care about others and their doubts of skepticism about the Christian faith. “Dear friend, we have thought about these questions too!”

May 5-26

Wednesday Bible Studies

Brew and Bible Nicene Creed In this four week Bible study Pastor Zarling will be taking us into the Scriptures to learn about the glorious truth of our triune God. We will look at some of the challenges the early Church faced, and examine how pressingly relevant it is today to confess the truth of who our God is.

Luther and Paul - the Righteousness of God With Martin Luther and the Apostle Paul as our tour guides we will spend six weeks looking at the greatest mystery and most beautiful truth of all: God’s righteousness for us in Christ. This study will close with a virtual tour of Wittenberg.

Old and New Covenants Have you ever asked yourself, “why does God sound so angry in the Old Testament?” Why are there so many pages of him being angry with Israel? Then this four part Bible study is for you. In it, Pastor Zarling will show us that the Old Covenant and the New Covenant connect in ways many of us don’t even realize - and at the center of it all is Christ. This four part Bible study is the perfect way to enjoy the Christmas season, as we see all the prophecies fulfilled at Bethlehem. This study will close with a virtual tour of Israel.

Women's Midweek Bible Study is a Bible study for women taught by women. We meet at 7:00pm beginning September 12. Come and join sisters in Christ as we look at *What is Worship*, *The Gospel in the Psalms*, and *The Catechism*. Join us, ladies, as we delve into these studies.

Thursday Bible Studies

Senior Bible Study meets at 10:00am downstairs in the fellowship hall. This is a study of the People's Bible. We are now studying the ***Gospel of Matthew***. "Matthew tells us that Jesus came, not to destroy the Law and Prophets, but to fulfill them. The miracles of Jesus are not only demonstrations of his divine power, proving him to be the Son of God; they are also precisely the mighty works that the prophets foretold of the promised Messiah." (People's Bible) The class welcomes all members, meets from September through May, and is led by Alan Fabian, Wes Heikkinen and Bob Manke. We sing hymns, take turns reading, pray for all those who are experiencing life's difficulties, and seek to expand our knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We also enjoy good fellowship, celebrate birthdays, have a yearly pot-luck and occasionally share some great desserts. So, if you are free on a Thursday morning, come join us. We look forward to meeting you!

Old and New Covenants Pastor Zarling will lead this study in September (see the Wednesday Bible Studies) for the Thursday night class. And then again in December for the Wednesday afternoon class. (Yes, it's that fun).

The Reformation from a Bauer's Perspective Our God is a God of History. He controls all things for the good of his church. In this four part study we will look at some of the amazing things our God did to prepare the way for the Reformation. ('Bauer' is the German word for 'peasant'.) This study will close with a virtual tour of Germany and Rome.

The Four Servant Songs of Isaiah There are four places in Isaiah where the 2nd Person of the Trinity tells us about how he's going to come into this world and save us. In December we examine them and see their fulfillment in the New Testament. The perfect way to prepare for Christmas!

People Close to God is a Bible Information Study led by Pastor Wilcox downstairs in the small meeting room at church for two hours each Thursday for about 14 weeks and begins September 6 at 7:00pm.

People Close to God gets back to the basics of God's Word and brings you closer to God. In this course you will learn of the deep love God has for all people, the extreme measures he took to bring people close to him, and how we as his children may stay close to him and bring others to be close to him.

This course reviews the chief teachings of our Christian faith and is a great class to bring friends to if they'd like to find out more about our beliefs. It also serves as an excellent review for any of our members. It also prepares any participant for church membership, but does not obligate anyone to become a member.

The winter-spring "People Close to God" course will start January 10, 2019.

Sunday School and Youth Bible Studies

Sunday School – Good Shepherd's Sunday School meets at our school for one hour on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:15am. Classes meet from September 9 – May 26.

Children 4 years olds through 4th grade are invited to join us for Christ-centered Bible stories that include the Law and Gospel in each lesson. Using the *Growing in Christ* Sunday School curriculum, students learn the major stories of the Old and New Testament and see how God weaves his plan of salvation in Christ through the lives of ordinary men, women, and children.

Growing in Christ uses age appropriate songs, activities and teaching tools to connect the Word of God to the daily life of the student, nurturing faith in our loving, forgiving Savior.

For more information, please contact the church office at 414-774-1184 or www.goodshepherds.net.

Jr. Youth Group (5th - 8th Grade) meets on Sundays at 9:15am and is an exciting, interactive program that provides the opportunity for students to delve deeper into the Bible to see how it relates to each of their lives and discuss issues that are relevant and important to them.

Teen Group (9th – 12th Grade) meets on the second Sunday of the month. See the monthly calendar for more information. Teens deal with a lot at school, at home and in life. Teen Group is a place where they can connect to other teens, find encouragement from God's Word, grow together and express their faith. We're glad to offer Teen Group to anyone in high school. For more information contact Pastor Wilcox.

Confirmation Instructions

Confirmation Instructions for our school age youth in grades 7 & 8 who attend Good Shepherd's School meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning at 8:15am and is taught by Pastor Wilcox and Pastor Zarleng.

All youth not attending Good Shepherd's School that are in grades 7-12 meet Wednesday's at 4:30pm beginning September 6 and is taught by Pastor Wilcox. Please contact either pastor for more information.

THE FAMILY FAITH JOURNEY

We want all people to know Jesus. We want families especially to know Jesus. And parents are the primary spiritual influencers of their children. *The Family Faith Journey* is a series of *Family Faith Events* for you and your children to gain hands-on experience in sharing the faith. We want you to teach your children about Jesus so you can hug them in heaven.

Please look at the different *Family Faith Events* below for a brief description. For specific times and locations of these events check the website and/or the weekly bulletin. You can also register for an event at **www.GoodShepherds.net/FamilyFaith**.

INTERNET SAFETY GRADES 5-8

August 29, 6:30pm - with Dinner

As our children grow, they grow in their use of technology. By learning what pre-teens and teens are doing online, understanding the good and bad parts of the internet, and how to protect your identity, you will help your children to be safe online.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY! INFANTS—1 Year Old

God made families— and yours is special! Our role is to help you raise your children to know Jesus so that you can hug them in heaven! Your baby will be included in Cradle Roll (until they turn 4) and you'll receive regular mailings with information to help you at every stage!

FAMILY BLESSINGS 2 YEARS OLD

Toddlers absorb everything they see, hear and experience — positive and negative! Join your children to learn how the practice of Family Blessings encourages children to feel accepted and valued at home, and as part of God's church family. Daily Family Blessings connect your children to the One who loves them most!

WORSHIP REGULARLY GRADES 5K—1

Your child is a child of God—unique and special just as God created him/her. But we were not created to live alone! Modeling the importance of regular, congregational worship helps your child understand that they are a part of a larger community of believers in our Savior Jesus.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE GRADE 4

February 15 6:00pm

God commands us to “serve one another in love.” We find joy in using our God-given abilities to take care of the needs of others. Learn to help your child identify their talents and use them to serve at home, at church, in your community—all for God's glory!

COMMITMENT TO STEWARDSHIP GRADE 5

Everything we have comes from God. Join your children in learning what God says about money and joyfully giving back to him your first-fruit offerings!

FAMILY DEVOTIONS 3-4 YEARS OLD

Daily time with God's Word helps us to stop and focus on our Savior Jesus, even in the midst of busy lives. Learn how to develop the practice of spending regular family time with God's Word, so it becomes a natural part of your daily routine.

BIBLE READING GRADES 2-3

The Bible is the only way to know and grow in understanding of who God is and what he's done for us. The Holy Spirit works through God's Word in your child's heart to continually transform him through the work of sanctification. At this age, your child is excited to read on his/her own! Learn to encourage and coach your child to read on the Bible daily, so it becomes a life-long habit.

DAILY PRAYER 3-4 YEARS OLD

January 18, 2019

Personal time talking with God is a faith habit at the core of a deepening relationship with Jesus. Learn how to teach your child the value of informal and formal prayer, four types of prayer, when to pray (all the time!) and how to lead your family to pray in all situations, big or small.

YOUR LOVING FAMILY PARENTS OF GRADES 1 & 2

September 21, 9:15am

Your child is part of a loving family and you want to protect that love. By learning how God speaks about our bodies, his design for family, and what to do when we see bad pictures of people, you will gain confidence in protecting your family's love.

**Come, Hear and Take to Heart God's Soul Saving
Word for You**

Luke 11:28... "Blessedare those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Romans 10:17 .. faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

John 20:31 But these (God's Word) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 8:47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

Matthew 7:21, 24-27 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.²⁴ Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Psalms 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together (worship), as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day (Judgment day) approaching.

Luke 14:16-24 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet (God's Salvation for sinners) and invited many guests.¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'¹⁸ "But they all alike began to make excuses. ...²³ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.²⁴ I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet."

Proverbs 1:7, 23-31 ⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.²³ If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.²⁴ But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand,²⁵ since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke,²⁸ Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me.²⁹ Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord,³⁰ since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke,³¹ they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

Hebrews 10:26-27, 31 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left (Jesus sacrifice of the cross),²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Ezekiel 33:11 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways!

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 ... we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain ...I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Hebrews 9:27 ... man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 ... Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

God wants you to be faithful to him. He has created you, redeemed you through the work of his Son, and gives you the gift of faith through the Holy Spirit. God wants you “to be his own and live under him in his kingdom.” The power to always be faithful to God does not lie in you. In his precious Word and through the sacraments he comes to you to strengthen and keep you faithful and close to him. Listen, believe and apply the life giving truths of God’s Word and God’s blessing will rest on you. Without the life giving truths of God’s Word and God’s blessing you can only look forward to an eternity in hell.

All passages were taken from the NIV1984

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Sunday Mornings -- 9:15am

Family Faith Event: Internet Safety	Aug 29
Sunday School (4 yr old - 4th grades)	Sept 9 – May 26
Jr. Youth Group (5th - 8th grade)	Sept 9 – May 26
Reformation (Pless)	Sept 9 - Sept 30
Proverbs (Agenten)	Oct 7 - Nov 11
TBD.....(Lawrenz)	Nov 18 - Dec 9
Geography and Topography of Israel and Jerusalem	
(Adermann)	Dec 16 - Jan 6
The Last Times and the End of the World ...	
(Brenner)	Jan 13 - Feb. 17
Idol Worship (Prange)	Feb 24 - Mar 31
Doctrine of Vacation (Berg)	Apr 7 - 28
Be Prepared (Berg)	May 5-26

Wednesdays

Brew & Bible -- Nicene Creed, Luther and Paul, Old and New Covenants - 1:00pm (Zarling)	Begins Sept. 5
Women's Midweek Bible Study - 7:00pm	
What is Worship (Veldman)	Begins Sept. 12
Other Sessions (Subjects to be announced)	

Thursdays

Senior Bible Study - 10:00am - The Gospel of John (Fabian, Heikkinen, Manke)	Sept. 6 – May 23
People Close to God - 7:00pm (Wilcox)	Sept. 6 – Dec. 13
People Close to God - 7:00pm (Wilcox)	Jan. 4 – Apr. 18
Old & New Covenants— The Reformation from a Bauer's Perspective, Four Servant Songs of Isaiah - 7:00pm (Zarling)	Sept. 7 - Dec. 7

