

Stakeholder Report

2023



From the Principal

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God. - Ephesians 3:17-19

If you are in the habit of spending time on social media, you have likely noticed how quickly conversations can turn negative. Ever since COVID-19, people have tended to become much more vocal about their opinions, and if you are a normal person, you will tend to feel strongly that your opinion is the correct one while other opinions are simply wrong. This mode of thought then can quickly turn into anger and hatred as people interact with each other. We are not known for being a loving and caring society.

In the passage above the word “love” is repeated several times. It is the complete opposite of what we observe in our world today. A key factor is that this love emanates from Christ and not from us. Jesus is our true source of love. When we dig into Scripture, we see the overwhelming love that God has in his complete work of redemption that was laid out and carried out for us. It is an agape love that we can’t comprehend since it is so opposite to our sinful nature. But it is this love that motivates us through faith and gives us the ability to display true love to others. 1 John 4:19 states “We love because he first loved us.” It all starts with Jesus!

That’s why it is vital for us and our children to daily find ourselves digging in the Bible and seeing God’s loving hand displayed throughout history and applied throughout our lives. And that’s the purpose of Good Shepherd providing Christian education to the students in our care. We want those students to realize each day, that even though they are sinful and cannot earn God’s favor, because of God’s love displayed in Jesus’ redemptive work, they can be assured that God loves them through their faith in Christ.

To be honest, we must admit that as parents, teachers, and students we are all influenced by a secular world, but in our daily teaching and within our personal interactions, we have God’s Word at our fingertips. We get to teach about sin and grace. We get to learn more and more about the great work which Jesus did for each of us. We get to remind the students about Jesus’ love for them. As a result of that love, we get to assure the students that Jesus is with them at all times and guiding their lives here on earth and forever in heaven.

What a blessing and privilege we have as we soon get set to begin another school year - **Rooted In Love!**



2023-2024 Faculty

Chery Streckert

Part-time Preschool Teacher
Preschool Director

Joanie Arndt

Part-time Preschool Teacher

Teri Redders

Part-time Preschool Teacher

Rachel Hansen

Kindergarten Teacher
PTO Faculty Liaison

Marissa Oachs

Kindergarten Teacher

Hannah Koss

1st-Grade Teacher

Mollie Benjamin

1st-Grade Teacher

Christianne Bentley

2nd-Grade Teacher

Jeanine Heller

3rd-Grader Teacher
Music Coordinator

Justin Hansen

4th-Grade Teacher

Tracy Birkholz

Part-time 5th-6th Grade Teacher

Bill Arndt

5th-8th Grade Teacher

David Retzlaff

7th-8th Grade Teacher
Principal

Last spring we recognized the teaching ministry of Becky Birr as she completed many years of overall teaching with most of those years serving at Good Shepherd. Although now retired, Becky is still found worshipping and attending Bible studies at Good Shepherd. We thank the Lord for her faithful years of service and wish her God's blessings during her years of retirement.

We also welcomed this summer two new teachers. Mollie Benjamin had been serving in the Early Childhood Center in Hugo as part of the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church in North St. Paul. Her summer wedding plans moved her closer to Burnsville, so having her fill our need

as a teacher for 1st grade was a great fit. Hannah Koss had been serving as a Early Childhood Director in Wichita, KS when she accepted our call to teach the other 1st-grade classroom this year. Growing up in Rochester, she now has an opportunity to be closer to family as she serves us at Good Shepherd. We are thankful to have both of these ladies on board and teaching in our school this year!

Our part-time receptionist, Sara Youmans, moved to Texas this summer. Although we will miss her help, we are thankful to have hired Angie Koob to fill this role. Anige brings a lot of experience and organizational skills which are already proving to be great blessings to our school families.

We are thankful that during a time of teacher shortages, the Lord has blessed us with a full teaching staff. It is through our faithful faculty, hard-working staff, and dedicated volunteers that we are able to effectively carry out the many aspects that are needed for our school's ministry. May the Lord bless all our efforts as we provide Christian education for the students in our care!

Meet the 2023 Board

Nate Owens

Chairman

David Koob

Long-term Growth
Athletics

Brian Davis

Staff/PTO/Parent Relationships

John Johnson

School Outreach
Harvest Strategy

Dan Ludwig

Youth Ministries
Faith Night

David Retzlaff (Advisory)

Principal
MNSAA Accreditation

Standardized Testing

Each year the students in grades 4-8 take the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) standardized test. Listed below are the accumulated results over the last three years. We are thankful for such high scores over two school years that were greatly affected by COVID.

Area / Grade	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Math	67	72	69	81	88
Reading	60	64	66	69	69
Language	63	71	74	78	79

National Percentiles (Average Nation Percentile = 50)
Average of winter scores from 2020-2024

Accreditation

Our school is accredited through the Minnesota Non-Public School Accreditation Association (MNSAA). Part of the accreditation process is to create and annually update a strategic plan for the school. That plan is located on our school's website so that it can be viewed by our stakeholders. Some highlights for this year's planning are:

- Focus on classroom service projects
- Emphasize volunteer opportunities for congregation members
- Implement extracurricular activities and programs for K-4 students
- Meet with an architect and begin fundraising efforts for building expansion

Tuition Rates

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
GS	\$3270	\$3600	\$3780	\$4040	\$4500
Other	\$5650	\$6200	\$6386	\$6829	\$7600



Enrollment Statistics

<i>(September 2023)</i>	
Kindergarten	20
Grade 1	27
Grade 2	24
Grade 3	15
Grade 4	18
Grade 5	10
Grade 6	12
Grade 7	6
Grade 8	5
Total	137
Church Background	
GOOD SHEPHERD	78
% of Enrollment	57%
WELS/ELS	18
% of Enrollment	13%
OTHER CHRISTIAN	35
% of Enrollment	26%
NO CHURCH HOME	6
% of Enrollment	4%

Start children off in the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.
-Proverbs 22:6