



GOOD NEWS GROUPS

CONNECT • GROW • IMPACT...UP CLOSE

Fall 2026

WHY JOIN A GOOD NEWS GROUP?

God did not design us to face life on our own. Instead, he intended for believers to be woven together in a community so that they might encourage one another as together they walk the often-difficult path of life.

We strongly encourage you to consider joining one of our Good News Groups. As we get bigger, they are an increasingly important way for us to carry out our ministry:

- They are a way that our church provides opportunity for members to get to know one another better.
- They are a way that we help new members assimilate, knitting them into the Good News family.
- They are a way for you to connect with your fellow Christians.

TYPES OF GOOD NEWS GROUPS

There are three different types of groups:

- Connect Groups gather for recreational fellowship.
- Grow Groups gather for Bible study and discussion.
- Impact Groups gather for church or community service.
- Life Groups combine all of the above.

If you plan on joining a Good News Group, you can sign up at church, by visiting GoodNewsLC.org/groups, or by scanning the QR Code below.



FRIENDS AND FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Group Type: Connect Group

Description: Playing family friendly board games and card games with friends and their families.

Facilitator(s): Gary and Amy Pepin gpepin@gmail.com
(920) 763-2606

Intended for: All

The Pitch: Come have fun with friends, family, and children to enjoy fellowship and fun. Play different family friendly board games and/or card games.

Costs: None

Meeting Info: We will meet at our house:

4038 Red Hawk Run
Black Earth, WI 53515

Sundays @ 3:00 p.m.

September 20
October 18
November 15

MEN'S CARD NIGHT

Group Type: Connect Group

Description: This group will gather to play cards. The game might vary from night to night (examples: euchre, cribbage, hearts).

Facilitator(s): Dan Shinnick shinnick.dan@gmail.com
(608) 224-9292

Intended for: Any men who are interested

The Pitch: Sitting around a card table is a great opportunity to have fun, get to know others, and enjoy a little friendly competition! These card nights will be relatively low-key. Even if you don't have a ton of experience, you're welcome to come and learn!

Costs: None

Meeting Info: Location: Shinnick Home; 8982 Domini Road
Saturdays @ 6:00 p.m.

September 18

October 23

November 21

December 19

January 16

FEMALE FRIENDSHIP FORUM

Group Type: Connect Group

Description: A gathering of adult women to enjoy each other's company and conversation

Facilitator(s): Sadie Sutter sadiesutter@gmail.com
(608) 279-4089

Intended for: Adult women

The Pitch: Each month we'll arrange to meet at a local establishment for some snacks, beverages and conversation. Enjoy sharing the joys and struggles of life with your fellow Christian women.

Costs: Up to the individual

Meeting Info: Locations and times to be determined

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Group Type: Connect Group

Description: An informal meet up for coffee, conversation, and Scripture reading at Good News

Facilitator(s): Steve Grahn

Intended for: Adults

The Pitch: Stop in at church for a bit to say hi and catch up with some fellow Good News members (or guests). We'll put some coffee on and enjoy each other's company in our comfy gathering area.

At 9:45 a.m. we will read through the assigned Scripture readings for the coming Sunday and spend some time discussing them.

Costs: None

Meeting Info: Meet at Church

9:00–10:30 a.m.

Every Wednesday morning

PICKLEBALL

Group Type: Connect Group

Description: Playing pickleball at Viking Park in Mount Horeb and enjoying fellowship around the sport

Facilitator(s): Vicar Koelpin vicar.koelpin@goodnewslc.org
(469) 401-7143

Intended for: Anyone

The Pitch: Pickleball is a global movement! If you want to be a part of something truly special and get a great workout in all while having fun, then pickleball is your answer. Come join the whole Vicar family and experience a global sensation, courtesy of Mount Horeb's own Viking Courts. No experience needed!

Costs: At most a new pickle ball paddle (anywhere from ~ \$15--~\$75). Otherwise, balls will be provided and maybe a few spare paddles, too.

Meeting Info: Sunday evenings (around 6 p.m.), continuing until the weather is nice at Viking Park (by the high school).

We'll meet about every month, adjusting as needed because of weather or other events. We are open to all levels of pickleball, and we would love to be the first introduction to the sport for anyone.

ANDY BRAUN CONCERT

Group Type: Connect Group

Description: Attending performance of Andy Braun

Facilitator(s): Stephanie Shinnick fvlmom@hotmail.com
(920) 428-2601

Intended for: Men and Women

The Pitch: Performance by Andy Braun, a fellow WELS member and singer/songwriter with a folk-rock feel. He specializes in 60s and 70s music, and influences range from the Beatles to Neil Young. He'll be performing at the Riley Tavern on Friday, September 25, at 5:00 p.m. Join the group for a beverage and some food while listening to terrific live music.

Costs: Possible purchase of food or beverage, if desired.

Meeting Info: Riley Tavern, September 25, 5:00 p.m.

PACKER PARTY

Group Type: Connect Group

Description: Watching a Packer Game

Facilitator(s): Dan Shinnick shinnick.dan@gmail.com
(608) 224-9292

Stephanie Shinnick fvlmom@hotmail.com
(920) 428-2601

Intended for: Men and Women

The Pitch: Packer Party!!!!!!!!!!!!!! at the Shinnick home. We will provide snacks and drinks. We plan on feasting on Lions! We will have the game on the first floor TV for people who like to visit more than watch the game, and in the basement for people who want to focus on the game.

Costs: None

Meeting Info: October 25th, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Shinnicks' home

BRASS ENSEMBLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Group Type: Connect Group

Description: Attend a brass ensemble Christmas concert

Facilitator(s): Stephanie Shinnick fvlmom@hotmail.com
(920) 428-2601

Intended for: Anyone

The Pitch: Christmas Concert--The Isthmus Brass, Wisconsin's premiere large brass ensemble, is bringing the warmth and grandeur of the holiday season to the Mineral Point Opera House stage on Sunday, December 13th, at 2:00 pm. Join the group for brunch at the Shinnick residence after church, then head to the 2:00 concert. The Packers play at 7:30 that day, so your afternoon is free!

Costs: Tickets are \$25 and \$35.

Meeting Info: Sunday, December 13th, at 2:00 pm.

Shinnick home, Mineral Point Opera House

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Group Type: Grow Group

Description: The women's Bible study will be looking at two topics this fall:
Empowered to Proclaim: The Book of Acts
Talk to Me: Cultivating the Art of Meaningful Conversation

Facilitator(s): Stephanie Shinnick fvlmom@hotmail.com
(920) 428-2601

Intended for: Women

The Pitch: First Study: This study of the book of Acts focuses on the work of the Holy Spirit. Through this work of the Holy Spirit, the early Christians were empowered to proclaim the gospel message, and the Word of God spread. We will consider how that work also empowers modern-day Christians (us!) to proclaim the gospel message and how we can share it with others.

Second Study: Join us for a look at how to engage in conversation and develop relationships to strengthen the body of Christ and invite more people into it. We will learn from Jesus' example and gain simple skills to listen and talk to anyone in a meaningful and mutually beneficial way.

Costs: Talk to Me: \$11 for a book (optional)

Meeting Info: Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Good News and during the day on Tuesday or Wednesday at Shinnicks'.

First Study: 4 weeks starting September 8

Second Study: 4-6 weeks starting October 27 (done by Thanksgiving).

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Group Type: Grow Group

Description: Men's Bible Study - Ninja Warrior Jesus

Facilitator(s): Dan Shinnick shinnick.dan@gmail.com
(608) 224-9292

Intended for: Men

The Pitch: Jesus was a “man's man.” We will look at his life and the battles he fought for us, and how He is a great model for our lives as Christian men (husband, father, grandfather, friend, worker, and follower of Christ)

Costs: None

Meeting Info: Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Good News starting September 8

BIBLE STUDY: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Group Type: Grow Group

Description: A study of the basic teachings of the Bible, including what we believe and teach as a Lutheran church.

Facilitator(s): Pastor Bauer pastor@goodnewslc.org
(608) 772-7500

Intended for: All are welcome
This is also the class intended for anyone interested in becoming a member at Good News.

The Pitch: Human beings often demonstrate that they are pretty good at asking the right questions. They aren't so great, however, at arriving at the correct answers to those questions. In this class we'll see how the answers to life's most important questions – questions that everyone wants answers to – are all found in God's Word, the Bible. Not only that, but God's answers to those questions are always good news.

This class is a great opportunity for Good News members to review the teachings of the Lutheran church; it's also a class designed for anyone interested in membership at Good News.

Costs: None

Meeting Info: Location: Good News
Day/Time: Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. starting September 22.
Eight lessons

GOOD NEWS CHOIR

Group Type: Impact Group

Description: Our church choir gathers to rehearse music for use in our Sunday morning services.

Facilitator(s): Stephanie Shinnick fvlmom@hotmail.com
(920) 428-6201

Intended for: Adults who have an interest in singing (teens welcome too!)

The Pitch: Christians love to sing when they gather. Music is an incredibly valuable and effective way to proclaim what our God has done for us. Our church choir exists to enhance our Sunday services with music. Being part of the choir is a great opportunity to enjoy God's gift of music and provide a valuable service to our congregation as we worship.

Costs: None

Meeting Info: Sunday mornings from 8:00-8:45 a.m. at Good News

COMPASSION CREW

Group Type: Impact Group

Description: This group will organize acts of compassion for members of our church and community who are in need.

Facilitator(s): Stephanie Shinnick fvlmom@hotmail.com
(920) 428-6201

Intended for: Anyone interested

The Pitch: This group is mainly to organize different ways to reach out to members and others in the community who may need some care or compassion. Examples include: Sending cards to members for anniversaries, birthdays, etc., arranging rides for people that don't have access to transportation, visiting people who aren't able to get out of the house much, sending care packages to students, and organizing meals when needed (not necessarily providing all the meals, just organizing them).

Costs: None

Meeting Info: There might be a meeting once a month in person, but the organizing can be done through email and phone calls.

GOOD NEWS GARDENERS

Group Type: Impact Group

Description: We will be maintaining and enhancing the flower beds and landscape areas around our church building.

Facilitator(s): Sandy Petersen sandypetersen1@icloud.com

Intended for: Plant lovers, plant experts, people that love being outside and beautifying properties.

The Pitch: Join the Good News Gardeners to help make our church grounds beautiful now and for years to come. This is an impact/service group but there is no doubt it will also be a connect group as we work together and have fun. Let's make the Good News grounds beautiful and have fun doing it.

Costs: None.

Meeting Info: By signing up, you help create a mailing list we can use when a groundskeeping event comes up.

There will for sure be a fall cleanup day coming up.

The ultimate purpose of the group is to help make the Good News Lutheran grounds beautiful.

GOOD NEWS LIFE GROUPS

Group Type: Life Groups

Description: Life groups are small groups of Good News individuals and families who meet regularly for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer.

Intended for: Anyone

The Pitch: Form deeper connections and grow in God's Word with a smaller group of Good News members. As our church continues to grow, it gets more and more difficult to get to know everyone at much more than a surface level. Life Groups get you more closely connected to a smaller group of people.

Costs: None

Fall 2026 Life Groups

Location	Organizers	Frequency	Day/Time
Mt. Horeb	Pastor Bauer/ Vicar Koelpin	2x Monthly	Wednesday Mornings @ 10 a.m.
North	Craig and Holly LaPlante	Monthly	Sunday Afternoons
South	Dan and Erin Biank	Monthly	Saturday/Sunday Evenings
East	Tom and Amy Hansel	Monthly	Sunday Evenings
West	Mo and Lois Stecklein	Monthly	Thursday Evenings OR Saturday Afternoons/Evenings

You can sign up any and all options that work for you. Once sign-ups are complete, rosters will be finalized with each person being placed in one group.