



GOOD NEWS GROUPS

CONNECT • GROW • IMPACT...UP CLOSE

Spring 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.

February 15

March 15

April 19

May 17

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.

February 21

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

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

WISCONSIN WALKERS

Group Type: Connect Group

Description: Going on hikes/nature walks and just generally exploring Wisconsin's state and county parks

Facilitator(s): Calvin and Kylie Arstein vicar.arstein@goodnewsinc.org
(208) 938-0104

Intended for: Anyone

The Pitch: There are few better ways to start a morning than a bit of light exercise while enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells of nature! Come join the whole Vicar family and explore the local trails and parks, courtesy of the Wisconsin DNR.

Costs: At most a possible parking pass if at a state park (\$28/year; \$13/day)

Meeting Info: Saturday mornings (around 9 a.m.), beginning once the weather is nice. We'll meet about every 3 weeks, adjusting as needed because of weather or other events that may come up. We try and do a mix of local, easily accessible parks and some nicer, but farther away, state parks. Suggestions are welcome!

PLANT SWAP

Group Type: Connect Group

Description: This is a one-time get together on a Saturday morning in May to swap perennial plants and/or indoor plants with fellow church members and friends.

Facilitator(s): Margie Rankin margie.e.rankin@gmail.com
(920) 738-4529

Intended for: Anyone and everyone is invited.

The Pitch: Consider this an opportunity to split and to give a perennial from your garden or your indoor plants. In exchange you can add something new to your garden or home. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Ecclesiastes 3:2: "There is a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted."

Costs: None

Meeting Info: The plant swap will take place at the church on Saturday, May 2 beginning at 9 a.m. until all the swaps have been made.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: FROM OLD TO NEW

Group Type: Grow Group

Description: We will study practices from the Old Testament and make connections to their relevance for New Testament believers.

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

Intended for: Women

The Pitch: When you're looking for some light reading, you probably think of the Old Testament, right? Or, more likely, it seems like the Old Testament is just a bunch of history, filled with things you don't understand and can't relate to. This study will change your thinking! Starting with the tabernacle--what it was, how it was used, and why--we will take a look at various practices in the Old Testament and explain how they are tied to the story of salvation as it is revealed in the New Testament. Not boring history or unrelatable practices, but enlightening connections between the old and new that show us how God prepared his people for the coming of the savior. We'll meet for 4-6 weeks. Day and time to be determined by the group. Come and join us!

Costs: No cost

Meeting Info: Day and time to be determined by the group.

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 February 10.
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.

NURSERY CARE

Group Type: Impact Group

Description: This group provides childcare during the Bible study and for other church-related events.

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

Intended for: Older teens and adults

The Pitch: Enjoy young children? Need a weekly “baby fix”? Help watch our children who aren’t quite old enough for Sunday School yet so that their parents are able to attend Bible study.

Costs: None

Meeting Info: Sadie will coordinate the weekly schedule and meet with volunteers as needed.

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.

We will schedule one or more spring work days as the weather warms 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

Spring 2026 Life Groups

Location	Organizers	Frequency	Day/Time
Mt. Horeb	Vicar and Kylie Arstein	Monthly	Sunday Afternoons
Blue Mounds	Kyle and Sadie Sutter	Monthly	Monday Evenings
North	Craig and Holly LaPlante	Monthly	Sunday Afternoons
South	Dan and Erin Biank	Monthly	Friday/Saturday Evenings
East	Tom and Amy Hansel	Monthly	Sunday Evenings
West	Mo and Lois Stecklein	Monthly	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.

