

The Shepherd's Staff

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GOD, KIDS AND MONEY FOR 1ST - 3RD GRADERS **Rescheduled for Wednesday, April 6th** **5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

This year we are offering "God, Kids, and Money" for all children in 1st through 3rd grades and for their parents. We were snowed out in February, so we are holding it now on April 6. Our goal is to bring parents and children together for some fun learning activities that focus on God and money. When children learn the basics about money, we can help them learn some important things about God in the process. We hope that you and your child will join us on **Wednesday, April 6th from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.** RSVP to the church office or carole35@charter.net so we have enough supplies.

EDUCATION TEAM MEETING **Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Kim's in Plainview** **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

The Service of "Affirmation of Baptism", also known as "**Confirmation**", will take place on **Sunday, May 1st at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.** **Confirmation pictures** will be taken in the sanctuary that morning from **9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**

Confirmands will share their faith statements with their parents, peers, and other caring adults at the **confirmation banquet on Wednesday, April 27th.** We will have a **meal together at 6:00 p.m.** The evening is always a highlight of the confirmation year. Council leaders, family and all who want to support them are encouraged to come too.

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PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Spring always brings about some interesting weather conditions. Last month we caught a little glimpse of spring and then we saw snow falling another time. The weather gives us all something to start conversations with, to talk about for hours on end. The weather is often a common place to start conversations and a place to end conversations. It is a safe topic to talk about because everyone experiences the weather in some way or another. A shared experience of the weather, or anything else, gives us a connection to each other and our surrounding community.

The disciples in the upper room certainly had a shared experience when Jesus appeared to them after being raised from the dead. We can only imagine what their conversations must have been like as they talked about their thoughts and feelings of seeing Jesus risen from the dead. Acts 2:42 talks about the community that is formed by the disciples and those whom have a shared experience of Jesus.

It's not just the disciples in the Bible who had a shared community experience in Jesus. All of us as Christians also have a shared experience in Jesus. And as a community of Christians, we can go beyond talking about the weather with one another. We can go deeper. We can talk about and share the things that really matter.

We as a congregation, we as a community of Christians bear witness to what is really important. We are living out our faith through our actions by gathering together on Sundays to worship our risen Lord, and we can also talk with others about what is really important in our lives – Jesus Christ.

How does the community in Christ grow (that is growing deeper spiritually)? It grows by telling the story of what God has done. It grows by being refreshed and renewed in the deep study of God's Word. It grows by prayer and worshipping together. It grows by giving, helping and sharing with others. These are the basics of the shared community in Christ. All are invited to come and share in the Easter experience of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God's Peace,
Pastor Krista

CONGREGATION NEWS

MILESTONES

Baptisms

Blessings to Bentley Merle Burdick, who was baptized on March 13th. Bentley is the son of Kurt & Kristi Burdick.

First Communion

The following students studied Holy Communion during Lent. They also baked the communion bread for Maundy Thursday. Many received their first communion at the Maundy Thursday worship service. Welcome to the Lord's Table; there is a place for you!

Skylar Beckel, Cameron Bluhm, *Alyvia Engler, Luke Ferkin, Dylon Flattum, Caitlin Harlow, Claire Henry, Destiny Kraemer, Lydia Kreofsky, *Brandon Melcher, Nolan Pfeilsticker, Joseph Sackreiter, Benjamin Suntken, Alexis Yust and Charli Yust.

* -- Will receive First Communion on April 3rd

NEW MEMBERS/POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS

Fellowship and food are a big part of church life. The Church Council would like to invite you and your family and all who have joined Good Shepherd within the last year to a potluck dinner at Todd & Tina Wangen's on **Saturday, April 23rd starting at 6:00 p.m.** Since there is never enough time on a Sunday morning to visit and get to know one another, we hope this will be a fun evening of conversation and, of course, food. **Please RSVP to the church office by April 20th** whether or not you and your family can join us on Saturday, April 23rd.

Todd & Tina's address is: 705 Riverwood Court, Elgin, MN.

Thank you for being a part of the Good Shepherd family.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Thank you for your support of our youth with your donations of money, soup, bread, cheese and desserts. Our Lenten soup suppers were a wonderful time to break bread and enjoy fellowship with one another. Over the course of Lent, over \$1000 were donated to our youth program by you.

Youth group will start up again on Wednesday March 30th. The tentative schedule is as follows:

March 30 th	Bigger & Better Hunt for the Food Shelf – we need adult drivers
April 6 th	Blanket Making Night – bring fabric scissors
April 13 th	Bowling at Bowlocity – we need adult drivers
April 20 th	Game Night and Pizza at Good Shepherd
April 27 th	To Ronald McDonald house to donate blankets & hats, stop for ice cream – bring \$ for ice cream & we will need adult drivers
May 4 th	Help with VBS Planning
May 11 th	End of Year Cookout

Adults, please check your calendars and let Karen Jurgenson or Carole Joyce know which dates you can help out as a driver.

NOTE: For those who brought soup to the suppers and have not picked up your crock pots from church, please do so as soon as possible. There are about 5 or 6 crock pots left in the kitchen.

Summer High School Trip to Chicago July 24-29.

This summer eight youth are Chicago bound on a mission trip to the inner city. Adult leaders will be John Folkert, Tracy Goettl, and Carole Joyce. Thank you for supporting youth through coffee shop and soup suppers! The youth go as an outreach of Good Shepherd. We will bring back stories of God at work in Chicago.

BOOK GROUP IN APRIL

Join us on **Wednesday, April 20th at 6:30 p.m.** to talk about *“Orphan Train”* by Christina Baker Kline. A book bag is in the office and there is plenty of time to read it. Start bringing ideas of what you would like to read next year. The year is just flying by!

Our May book is called *“The Cape Ann”* by Faith Sullivan. We will discuss it on May 18th at 6:30 p.m.

EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION – STUDY ON SEXUALITY

Class held Sunday mornings between services of worship

In April we will continue our conversation about sexuality and the ELCA's position on ordination and marriage for persons who are gay or lesbian. In order to better understand the different views that are present within the larger church, we are taking a look at different scripture passages and the different interpretations of those passages.

For our conversation and discussion we adopt the ground rules of being respectful of different views, people's experiences and what people share. Any dialogue about sexuality is bound to be sensitive. Differences regarding the topic of homosexuality are often very sharp and conversations at times have often become hurtful to all parties involved. Therefore, the starting point for these conversations will be the recognition that there are faithful people of God on both sides of these issues, who love God and are trying to do their best to determine what God has to say.

Some people have asked if following this study we will be taking a vote regarding whether or not Good Shepherd will support marrying persons who are gay or lesbian. I would like to emphasize that this adult education study is the beginning of a conversation. The ELCA started a formal conversation on the topic of sexuality back in 1989. In 2001 the churchwide assembly mandated that the church conduct two studies on sexuality and bring recommendation back to the church wide assembly in 2005. The church very intentionally set aside four years for study, prayer, and conversation. It is my understanding that Good Shepherd did not participate in those four years of study, and we are only now beginning the process of study, prayer, and conversation. I personally do not feel a vote is wise or necessary at this time. We can discuss this more the last week of our study on sexuality.

VBS 2016: BARNYARD BLESSINGS PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, April 3rd - 11:30 am – at Good Shepherd

We are looking for volunteers to help decorate, lead the games station, be a small group leader, run the greeter table, or be a general helper. Any students currently in 5th grade and older are welcome to volunteer also. Please contact Erin Bluhm via email at erinb@bluhmandgrow.com to RSVP or sign up on the "Count Me In" form in Sunday's bulletin. You won't want to miss out on the fun and fellowship, so sign up to participate or help today!

For questions contact Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net, 269-9374) or Erin Bluhm (erinb@bluhmandgrow.com, 876-0141)

LUTHERAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Good Shepherd students attending a Lutheran College are eligible to apply for a scholarship from Good Shepherd (funded by Thrivent Choice Dollars). The student must be attending a Lutheran college and provide receipt of payment equal to or greater than the scholarship amount to receive funding. So, if you have a student attending (or will be attending) a Lutheran College and are interested in receiving a scholarship, you will need to fill out a brief application and return it to Good Shepherd. Contact the church office for one of the scholarship forms.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Good Earth Village Bible Camp

A week (or several days) at Bible camp is a wonderful way to have lots of fun, explore God's amazing creation, and have great faith conversations. Because this can be such a meaningful experience, Good Shepherd would like to pay part of the cost for any student who would like to go to camp at Good Earth Village this summer! This offer is for any student Kindergarten - 9th grade. (Full scholarships are available for anyone with financial need. Just talk to Carole Joyce or Pastor Krista.)

- The easiest way is to register and pay deposit on-line at goodearthvillage.org
- Brochures are also available at church on the table in the narthex; then send your registration and deposit directly to GEV.
- Let Carole Joyce or the church office know you are going.
- Some Good Shepherd students are going the week of July 26-31.

It would be fun to have a group go together, so we picked July 25-29 as Good Shepherd week. Pastor Krista will visit sometime during that week. If July 25-29 doesn't work for you, choose any week that does.

GEV Adventure Day for Kindergarten-4th Grade

Good Shepherd will again be taking a group to the Adventurers camp at Good Earth Village for any students completing grades K-4. This is a one day camp on **Thursday, July 28th**. The camp runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with lunch provided. You pay a deposit of \$30 and Good Shepherd will pay the rest because it is such a great experience! Pastor Krista will carpool to and from GEV in Spring Valley and join you for the day. If you would like to participate in this great opportunity please sign up on-line at goodearthvillage.org and let us know in the office that you did. If you have any questions please contact Carole Joyce carole35@charter.net or 269-9374.

ON THE ROAD: GOOD EARTH VILLAGE AT GOOD SHEPHERD

July 11-14 for 3rd-6th graders

Open to the whole PEM community!

We are so excited to have Bible camp counselors coming to Good Shepherd to lead day camp from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Games, songs, skits, Bible study, and lots of fun are in store for you and your friends. Sign up at goodearthvillage.org under All Camps. Then find "On the Road Plainview". You will need to create an account to register. OR, you can pick up a form in the church narthex.

Please invite your friends and neighbors.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

Sign Up **now** to participate in these summer activities:

(See below for more details and how to register.)

At Good Shepherd:

1. VBS for age 3 through 3rd graders: June 13-16 from 6-7:45 PM
All ages are invited to Thursday's special RAD zoo presentation!
2. On the Road with Good Earth Village – here at Good Shepherd: July 11-14 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for 3rd - 6th graders

At Good Earth Village Bible Camp

3. Adventure Day with Pastor Krista July 28th
4. A week or partial week at Good Earth Village. The church will give everyone a partial scholarship.

VBS 2016: Barnyard Blessings



When: June 13 - 16 (M, T, W, Th)

Time: 6:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Who: Children Age 3 - Current 3rd Graders

**You will not want to miss the amazing zoo-riffic
RAD Zoo program Thursday night!**

Registration is open now through Sunday, May 15th.

Please show your consideration to those planning and ordering supplies by having your registrations in on time.

Registration forms can be found on Good Shepherd's website www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org or in the church narthex and should be returned to the church office. One child per form please. A \$10 donation per child or \$20 per family is encouraged by not required.

Contact Erin Bluhm (erinb@bluhmandgrow.com or 876-0141) or Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net or 269-9374) to volunteer or ask questions.

- Current 5th graders on up are encouraged to volunteer.
- Parents or grandparents of preschoolers are invited to attend with them—an opportunity to play and learn together.

Everyone is welcome, so invite a friend, neighbor, or family member

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Thanks to all who helped make tag blankets for babies baptized at Good Shepherd. Thanks to many hands we completed 18 and have another 18 ready to sew!

Lenten Offerings: Good Shepherd contributed \$2,378 through Lenten offerings our March noisy offering. Thanks to all of you, many families will have food on their plates this spring.

God was at work through the many people who contributed to the Lenten soup suppers. Thank you for being a part of the congregation's fellowship! Karen Jurgenson kept the kitchen going and the high school youth set up and cleaned up each week. Donations went to the youth programs. Thank you all.

Thanks to the many worship cantors and leaders during Lent and to Gloria Keseley who coordinated the worship services.

PROPERTY

Spring Cleanup Day: Good Shepherd Church will be having a spring cleanup day on **Saturday, April 23rd (weather permitting), starting at 8:00 a.m.** They would like at least 8-12 people, so please consider saving that date to come out to Good Shepherd and help "spruce up the church yard"!

New Lawn Mower: The church council has approved the replacement of one of the two mowers that we currently own. We will be selling the John Deere 400 mower. We are asking anyone who is interested in purchasing the mower to submit a sealed bid. Please place your bid in the property chair mailbox in the church office. The mower is a late 70's early 80's model and comes with a mowing deck. It is being sold as is with no warranty. **Bids are due by April 10th.** Any questions can be directed to Joe Suntken at 273-4958.

Repair Shed Roofs: Summer will be here soon and Good Shepherd is getting a new lawn mower! We will also need to repair the roofs on the mowing sheds. Please consider helping to fund these projects -- every dollar helps. We would really like to be able to pay for these items without having to take out a loan. Please note the purpose of your donation so it is allocated properly. Progress will be tracked on a poster board in the narthex—watch the grass "disappear" and a new roof "appear" as we reach our goals. Thank you very much for your continued generosity.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Plainview Al-Anon Weekly Meetings are held on **Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ** (205 First Street NE, Plainview). Enter through the side door on 2nd Avenue. These meetings are to help friends and families of problem drinkers find understanding and support. **Phone: 507-273-9316**
Email: plainviewmnalanon@yahoo.com

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

04/01	Carol Goergen-Fenske	04/17	Braden Melbostad
	Dylan Koepsell	04/18	Tyler Engler
04/02	Stacy Hutchison		Paislee Nesler
	Camryn Nesler	04/20	Mitchell Breuer
04/03	Jane Potter		John Wehrs
04/04	Don Brenteson	04/21	Joshua LaBare
04/07	Linda Theisen	04/23	Kevin Gudmundson
04/08	Kelsey Petit		Andrew Masee
	Leah King		Xander Henderson
04/09	Kathy Rohlik	04/26	Ben Peter
	Kent Kingsley		Katy Johnson
	Kareen Bigalk		Sarah Wolf
	Dylon Flattum	04/27	Michelle Gudmundson
04/12	Joe Ulwelling		Char Balcome
04/13	Doris Johnson		Jen Peter
	Dustin Wehrs		Richard Turri
	Piper Horton	04/29	Steve Sawyer
04/14	MaKenzie Rau		Lily Bartz
04/16	Hunter Goergen		Shannon Ramthun
	Tanner Goergen	04/30	Kay Rasmussen
			Sarah Hassig

Anniversaries

04/05	Paul & Karla Appel	04/23	Nathan & Betty Norregaard
04/06	Jim & Sibyl Mason	04/24	Al & Franny Schwantz
04/22	Fran & Sheila Grover		Thor & Tina Erickson
	Roger & Cindy Rettmann		

*NOTE: Birthdays and anniversaries listed in the newsletters are now being limited to adult members and their college-aged and under children. If you have questions and/or concerns with this, please contact the church office.

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Don't change so people like you.
Be yourself and the right people will love you!**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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The Shepherd's Staff is a communication tool among our friends and members spreading the word of Jesus Christ with news of our church and related events. It is published monthly by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Plainview-Elgin.

VISION STATEMENT, GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Claimed by God through Word & Sacrament, we move forward with a NEW VIEW:

Notice the needs of our congregation, community, and world with eyes of faith.
Educate all from cradle to grave.
Worship in thankfulness and joy.

Value all generations in passing on the faith.
Identify and affirm the gifts of God's people.
Energize God's people to use their gifts for ministry.
Welcome the opportunity to walk the talk with our youth.

The submission deadline for the May 2016 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, APRIL 22.