

The Shepherd's Staff

April 2017

Issue 205

Contact Information

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 355
Plainview MN, 55964
(507) 534-3675
www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org

Pastor: Krista Henning-Ferkin
Office Hours: Vary
Email: Krista.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com
Phone: (507)534-3675 (office)
(605)480-2325 (cell)

Intern: Vicar Nicole Rockne
Office Hours: Vary
Email: nrockne001@luthersem.edu
Phone: 507-398-7710

Cong. Administrator: Lynn Eversman
Office Hours: Vary
Email: secretary@goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org
Phone: (507)534-3675

Passing on Faith Facilitator: Carole Joyce
Office Hours: Vary
Email: carole35@charter.net
Home Phone: (507) 288-0551
Cell Phone: (507) 269-9374

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HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday	April 9, 8:00 & 10:30 AM Between Services: Palm Sunday Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt
Maundy Thursday	April 13, 7:00 PM
Good Friday	April 14, 7:00 PM
Easter Sunday	April 16, 8:00 & 10:30 AM Christ is Risen!

PALM SUNDAY: BREAKFAST SERVED 8:30 - 10:30 AM

Menu: pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, fresh fruit, milk, juice and cinnamon rolls

PALM SUNDAY: EDUCATION HOUR EGG HUNT

Join other young families for an Easter egg hunt and the Easter story on **Sunday, April 9th at 9:30 am**. Bring your own basket. A congregational breakfast will be served starting at 8:30 am. The kids will hunt at 9:30 am and experience the events of holy week. Palm Sunday worship will be at 8:00 and 10:30 am as usual.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

The Service of "Affirmation of Baptism", also known as "**Confirmation**", will take place on **Sunday, April 30th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service**. Confirmation pictures will be taken in the sanctuary that morning from **9:15 - 10:15 am**. Confirmands will share their faith statements with their parents, peers, and other caring adults at the **confirmation banquet on Wednesday, April 26th**. 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.

NOTE FROM THE BISHOP

Many denominational, national, and international leaders have released statements regarding refugees and/or immigration. The following is the statement released by our presiding bishop, The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. If you would like to have further conversation or a forum on this topic, let Pastor Krista know.

January 30, 2017

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Yesterday, we heard these words in the Gospel reading from Matthew 5:1-12, the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, Jesus lays out a vision for life in God's realm, characterized by seeing those who are often most disregarded, including the meek, the mourning and the peacemaker, as bearers of God's blessing. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to hear this Gospel, including Jesus' call for his disciples to be carriers of God's light and hope and reconciliation to a world deeply in need of them.

In this spirit, earlier last week I communicated with the Trump administration asking that it not stop the U.S. refugee admissions program or stop resettlement from any country for any period of time. The Bible calls us to welcome the stranger and treat the sojourner as we would our own citizens. I agree with the importance of keeping our country secure as the administration stated in its executive order last Friday, but I am convinced that temporarily banning vulnerable refugees will not enhance our safety nor does it reflect our values as Christians. Instead, it will cause immediate harm by separating families, disrupting lives, and denying safety and hope to brothers and sisters who are already suffering.

Refugees being resettled in the United States have fled persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political views and/or associations. They wait for years for the chance to go home. But sometimes, there is no home for them to go back to. We know from our partners at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) that only 1 percent of all refugees are chosen for resettlement.

of faith helped start and still sustain the refugee resettlement program in the United States following World War II. As Lutherans, many of our ancestors faced the pain of having to flee their homes and the joy of being welcomed in new communities across the United States. As we have done throughout history, millions of Lutherans across the country honor our shared biblical values as well as the best of our nation's traditions by offering refuge to those most in need. We are committed to continuing ministries of welcome that support and build communities around the country and stand firmly against any policies that result in scaling back the refugee resettlement program.

We must offer safety to people fleeing religious persecution regardless of their faith tradition. Christians and other religious minorities suffer persecution and rightly deserve protection, but including additional criteria based on religion could have discriminatory effects that would go against our nation's fundamental values related to freedom of religion.

I invite ELCA congregations into learning, prayer and action on behalf of those who seek refuge on our shores. The ELCA ["Social Message on Immigration,"](#) [AMMPARO strategy](#) and [LIRS resources](#) are good places to start. You can also make a donation to [Lutheran Disaster Response](#). Those who have been part of resettling refugees or have their own immigration experience have important stories to share with their communities and testimony to make. I also encourage you to consider adding your voice by calling your members of Congress to share your support for refugees and using online advocacy opportunities through current alerts at [ELCA Advocacy](#) and [LIRS](#).

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Our Lord not only commanded us to welcome the stranger, Jesus made it clear that when we welcome the stranger into our homes and our hearts – we welcome him.

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

PASTOR'S NOTE

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

These are the words of Easter morning. These are the words of good news, in fact the best news of all. Jesus was dead and is now alive, and we need a living Jesus. We need the resurrection.

We need the resurrection because we live in a world where things are not as they should be. All around us we see death and signs of death. We see the signs of death when people are indifferent to one another, when someone is living in a state of despair. When someone in this world is not safe, doesn't have food to eat or water to drink or a place to call home. We see signs of death when we are suffering and when others are suffering. Every act of injustice and every act of violence is a sign of death. Yes, things in this world are not as God intended them to be. We need the resurrection!

The resurrection is life. In the resurrection, God defeats death and reveals that death does not and will not have the last word on us and our lives. Today, the resurrection of Jesus Christ directs us to look beyond the signs of death. New life in Christ is breaking into our world not just on Easter Sunday but every day. The resurrection transforms tragedy. The resurrection heals brokenness. In those moments when we cannot see beyond ourselves or beyond our pain, God continues to be at work in this world bringing life. When we cannot make things (or this world) into what we would have them to be, the resurrection reminds us that it's not all up to us. God is at work in this world, and resurrection is God's work and God's gift and blessing to us. Yes, we need the resurrection, and so does the rest of the world.

The resurrection stories in the Gospels also include the commission to "go and tell." In other words, once we know the good news that Christ is alive and at work in this world (despite the signs of death), we are not to remain idle. We have work to do: to bring the good news of life in Christ to others and to the world. During the season of Lent, many people focus on giving something up. Maybe in the days following Easter instead of giving something up, we can take something on. Maybe we can find something to add in our lives that will help us to "go and tell" others the good news. We "go and tell" as we live out our faith, talk about why we do what do, are present with those in need, reach out to help those in need, and invite others to hear this life changing news in worship, Bible study, and Sunday School.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Go and tell!

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

INTERN PASTOR'S NOTE

How are you doing with your task of being Thankful, truly thankful this Lent?

I will admit that for me there are days that I don't remember until evening and then quickly think of a few things before drifting off to sleep.

Here are a few things of what I give thanks for:

- Ø People who have jobs to ensure that we are safe and kept safe.
- Ø People willing to stand up for what they believe in.
- Ø History documentaries.
- Ø VOLUNTEERS! They are amazing!
- Ø A nice, comfortable, bed to sleep in.
- Ø Schools and teachers.
- Ø Family
- Ø My village
- Ø Soup! (I love soup!)
- Ø Good laughs at Confirmation
- Ø Soup...all the marvelous soup.

I hope that you continue, or start this practice of giving thanks. It is such a great practice. I have found it especially good in such times as these. It helps you to see the world with God lenses.

“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them.” Luke 22:19

Let us all find grace, joy, and love as we come to the table. Let us remember how much joy and thanksgiving there is in being a child of God.

Vicar Nicole

CONGREGATION NEWS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGE DRIVE

Play a Leading Role as We Put a Stake in the Ground to Expand Good Shepherd Submit Your Capital Campaign Response Forms by April 9

As our congregation enters an exciting time of growth during Good Shepherd's Capital Campaign, we invite you to play a leading role in our church's future. We want to fulfill God's vision for ministry and mission for us here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. And we need everyone's help to achieve this goal.

During the campaign—spanning from March 2017 to March 2020—our goal is to raise \$500,000 over the three years, including raising \$220,000 over this next year. The estimated cost for the renovation and expansion is \$1.3-\$1.45 million, but we have asked the architect and general contractor to consider add-ons and value engineering to bring the costs down to \$1.2 million.

Please prayerfully consider how you or your family can play a leading role as we put a stake in the ground while we hear God's call to move forward in faith along with Him as we expand our reach and our impact. Receiving your capital campaign contribution by **Sunday, April 9, 2017**, will enable us to become one step closer to achieving this vision by planning accordingly for our future campaign. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Capital Campaign Committee.

In Christ,

Pastor Krista, Nicole Engler, Shelley Henry, Nate Pfeilsticker, Franny Schwantz, Tina Wangen

MILESTONES

Baptisms

Blessings to Emma Marie LeVan, who was baptized on March 12th. Emma is the daughter of Bradley and Cortney LeVan.

Baptisms

Blessings to Kora Jean Steffen, who was baptized on March 12th. Kora is the daughter of Matt & Kaylan Steffen.

50th Wedding Anniversary: Blessings to Fran & Sheila Grover on their 50th wedding anniversary (4/22).

NOTE: Fran & Sheila have spent the last 50 years together by each other's side, almost 24/7. They started working together when they were 22 & 21, and have not stopped since!! They truly enjoy every moment they have together. Congrats! We love you!

Rachael, Marc, Jasmyne, Jordyn, Federica
Eric, Jenny, Sage, and Rose

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Youth Summer Trip

Seven youth will be traveling to the Boundary Waters July 23-28 through our Lutheran Bible Camp Wilderness Canoe Base. Keep them in your prayers as they experience the wonder of God's creation.

Youth Group Schedule

The Senior High Youth meet at 7:30 pm in the Youth Room. Their schedule for the rest of the year is:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| April 19th | Who gets the food? Feed My Starving Children |
| April 26th | Blanket and hat making for Ronald McDonald House |
| May 3rd | Blanket/hat making (games if done) |
| May 10th | To Ronald McDonald House to donate blankets and hats |
| | Stop for ice cream – bring money for ice cream and we will need adult drivers |
| May 17th | End of year cookout |

BOOK GROUP IN APRIL

Join us on **Wednesday, April 19th at 6:30 pm** to talk about *If You Leave this Farm* by local author Amanda Farmer. Jump in to read it if the topic interests you! All are welcome. 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 *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. This popular book bag was hard to get so you will definitely want to read this one. Discussion will be May 17th at 6:30 pm.

EDUCATION

FIRST COMMUNION TRAINING OFFERED

Part of our living as God's people is sharing in the meal that we call the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. During Lent we will be offering First Communion Instruction for all children in 2nd grade and above, with children receiving their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 13 at the 7:00 PM service.

Like Baptism, Holy Communion is a gift of God's grace. There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve either sacrament. Holy Communion is a sacred meal in which we receive Christ's body and blood in the bread and the wine. All children planning to receive their first communion are asked to attend one of the following instruction classes. Our hope is for each student to be accompanied by a parent or another caring adult to share in this learning with their child.

Sunday	April 2	2:00 - 4:00 PM
Saturday	April 8	10:00 AM – 12 Noon

At these sessions, learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion. All are welcome at God's table! AND, bake communion bread for Maundy Thursday worship and first communion on Thursday, April 13th.

Although First Communion and First Communion instruction is offered for children in 2nd grade and above, not every child is ready at this time to receive Communion. We encourage parents and children to be in conversation and pray about whether or not their child is ready to receive this sacrament.

Students participating in First Communion Preparation are invited to **receive their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday Worship service at 7:00 PM, April 13**. This is an evening that families have often invited grandparents, baptismal sponsors, and other family members to participate in too. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's readiness to receive Holy Communion, feel free to contact Pastor Krista or Carole Joyce.

ADULT EDUCATION – MONEY, POSSESSIONS, ME AND GOD

Class held Sunday mornings between services of worship

Next to the kingdom of heaven, Jesus spoke about money more than anything else. Money occupies a predominant place in our lives as we earn money, need money to pay bills, and want money to purchase other items or to have security in our lives. Join us from **9:30-10:15 on Sundays, April 2nd and 23rd**.

On Sunday, April 9th join us for Palm Sunday Brunch in between worship services and then come for worship on Sunday, April 16th for Easter.

SUPER HERO VBS DECORATING PARTY SUNDAY, APRIL 23- 10:15 AM

We are looking for youth and adults to help decorate for VBS on April 23rd. A simple lunch will be provided as we transform Good Shepherd into a Super Hero land. If you like to decorate, create, apply tape, follow directions, or just like hanging out with cool people, please plan to come for an hour or so.

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 the deposits on-line at goodearthvillage.org
- Brochures are also available at church on the table in the narthex (and on-line); then send your registration and deposit directly to GEV.
- Let Carole Joyce or the church office know you are going.
- GEV recommends you register ASAP to guarantee the week you want.

Some Good Shepherd kids are going for all the week of July 16-21. Others are going the week of June 25 for part or all of the week. If that doesn't work, choose any week that does.

Any Kindergarten - 4th graders who want to go for one day only, sign up for the Adventure Day on June 27. Carole Joyce would love to bring a group of kids.

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 **Tuesday, June 27**. The camp runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with lunch provided. You pay a deposit of \$30 and Good Shepherd will pay the rest because it is such a great experience! Carole Joyce 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 at carole35@charter.net or 269-9374.

SUPER HERO SERVICE

We would like to hold some Super Hero Service days with 6th-9th grade youth. We have tons of great ideas—BINGO at the nursing home, a project at the schools, painting or gardening, making bowls for Channel One, working at the Food Shelf, free car wash...We will add in other fun things too.

Time: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

We need 2 things to make this happen:

1. Most Important—awesome youth to participate
2. A few caring adults to spend a day driving OR help finalize project ideas.

Please contact Carole Joyce or Pastor Krista if interested. Possible dates are end of June or beginning of August.

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 12-15 from 6-7:45 PM**
All ages are invited to Sunday night's pool party
2. Super Hero Summer Service Days for 6th – 9th grades

At Good Earth Village Bible Camp

3. Adventure Day with Carole Joyce **June 27th**
4. A week or partial week at Good Earth Village. The church will give everyone a partial scholarship.

**Save the Dates for VBS 2017:
Super Heroes of the Bible
Monday - Thursday, June 12-15
6:00 - 7:45 PM**

For children currently in grades PreK - 3rd grade.
Children currently ages 3 years through 3rd grade are invited to attend with a caring adult. Anyone older than 3rd grade may participate as a helper.



**Registration is open now through Sunday, May 14th.
Everyone is welcome, so invite a friend, neighbor, or family member**

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 but not required.

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

Volunteers Needed!

We are currently looking for youth and adult volunteers & superheroes to help with VBS 2017

- June 12-15 from 6:00 - 7:45 pm. 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!
- Help with crafts, guiding a small group, snacks, games, skits, music, and possibly baby holding.

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Lent food drive: Thanks to all who contributed to the Lenten offerings and 40 can challenge. This continues through Easter Sunday April 16. Thanks to 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. What a joy to gather for fellowship each week! A special thank you to the high school youth who helped each week, Karen Jurgenson who kept the kitchen going, and all who helped with food or serving. Donations went to the youth programs. Thank you all.

Thanks to Lenten worship leadership--the cantors, Jay Schmidt, Cameron Bluhm, and Confirmation students.

This month we give thanks for the many leaders involved in the building plans, capital campaign, and church council. God is working through your many hours of discerning and work. May God guide Good Shepherd as we move forward in ministry and service in the PEM community.

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE NEWS

Easter Egg Hunt at Good Earth Village: Get your fix of green this Spring, searching for Easter eggs at Good Earth Village. With a terrific view of the valley, your family will love this fun afternoon adventure. The egg hunt will be held on April 9th with separate options for ages 0-7 (1:30 pm) and 8-12 (2:30 pm). For uncooperative weather, meet in Log Lodge, and the hunt will go on! Find out more and RSVP at <http://goodearthvillage.org/egghunt>.

NEW! Half Week Programs! We have heard the feedback from our camper families – they want their children to come to camp, but a whole week just isn't a good fit! New this summer, GEV is offering a half-week option of all of our age groups: Settlers (Grades 2-4), Pathfinders (Grades 3-5), Pioneers (Grades 5-7), Explorers (Grades 7-9), and Campers Choice (Grades 7-12).

Something New For High-Schoolers at GEV! For many moons, all High School Programs at Good Earth Village took campers to far off adventures. Foresters debut this summer, as the first high school group to stay and participate on site! This week at camp blends the best of the Pioneer and Explorer programs, with added autonomy and group bonding. Keep a look out for your brochure, or visit goodearthvillage.org

How Does Your Garden Grow? The Garden at Good Earth Village is growing bigger and bolder in 2017. With a larger growing space and increased participation, the garden will yield even more tasty food, dirty hands, and smiling faces. Use your green thumb to cultivate or educate. Call 507-346-2494 or email info@goodearthvillage.org for more information about how to volunteer your gardening talents.

For a complete listing of all the "goings-on" at Good Earth Village, call 507-346-2494, email info@goodearthvillage.org, or visit www.goodearthvillage.org.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

04/01	Carol Goergen-Fenske	04/18	Tyler Engler
	Dylan Koepsell	04/20	Mitchell Breuer
04/02	Stacy Hutchison		John Wehrs
	Camryn Nesler	04/21	Joshua LaBare
04/03	Jane Potter	04/23	Kevin Gudmundson
04/07	Linda Theisen		Andrew Masee
04/08	Leah King		Xander Henderson
04/09	Kathy Rohlik	04/25	Jeanne Dunn
	Kent Kingsley	04/26	Ben Peter
	Kareen Bigalk		Katy Johnson
	Dylon Flattum		Sarah Wolf
04/10	Bob Dunn	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
04/17	Braden Melbostad		Sarah Hassig
	Paislee Nesler		

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		Bryce & Angie Beckel

*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

1 cross + 3 nails = 4given

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

PO Box 355
Plainview, MN 55964

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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 2017 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, APRIL 21.