

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff

February 2016

Issue 191

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@gmail.com
Phone: (507)534-3675 (office)
(605)480-2325 (cell)

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

LENT 2016 – ON THE ROAD WITH GOD

Ash Wednesday - February 10, 7:00 PM – Facing Reality
Service of Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT – 7:00 PM

Half hour service of worship

February 17: The Wilderness Road
February 24: Heading Home
March 2: Challenges on the Way
March 9: Needing Help – Helping on the Way
March 16: Hope to Keep Going

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday **March 20, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**
Bystander or Companion

Maundy Thursday **March 24, 7:00 PM**
Tired Feet and Nourishment

Good Friday **March 25, 7:00 PM**
Cross Roads

Inside This Issue

- 2 Pastor's Note
- 3 Good Shepherd News
- 4 Congregational Life/Youth
- 5-6 Education
- 7 Finance
- 8 Missions & Stewardship
- 9 Birthdays & Anniversaries

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Lent begins February 10. Lenten devotions for adults will be available in the narthex. Please take one for your Lenten journey. A resource for families will be available too.

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear friends in Christ,

Welcome to Lent...

While roughly six weeks ago we were preparing for Christmas, now on February 10th, we are entering the season of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The forty days of Lent (plus the Sundays) invite us into a journey with our Lord and Savior. Like the forty day journey of Noah and his family in the flood, or the forty year journey of the Israelites in the wilderness, or Jesus' own forty day journey in the desert, we too are invited to use the forty days of Lent as a time to intentionally journey with God into life. Our theme for this year's Lenten services is "On the Road with God."

As we enter the season of Lent, consider how you will make this journey.

When I was growing up, I remember that my classmates who were Roman Catholic would talk about what they were giving up for Lent. Some would give up eating candy, some would give up drinking pop, some would give up video games, some would give up eating chocolate. This "giving up" of something that someone liked or enjoyed was meant to help a person reflect on all Christ gave up and sacrificed for us by coming into this world and through his suffering and death on the cross. As a child, even though I knew what the purpose was, I mostly remember just being thankful that I wasn't Catholic, and therefore I didn't have to give anything up.

When I was in college my roommate told me that instead of giving things up, she would try to do something to help her be a better disciple of Christ. Feeling inspired, (or maybe it was challenged), I decided I would do the same. Over the years, I have appreciated "adding something" during Lent. It has helped me more intentionally remember and recognize God's presence with me on the road through life.

Lent is a good time to focus on God's presence with us and in this world. Here are just a few ways that you can more intentionally be "On the Road with God."

- WORSHIP:** Commit to worship. Come more often on Sunday mornings. Join us on Wednesday evenings for our half hour Lenten services.
- STUDY:** Spend time in the Bible, God's Word for all of us. You can either do this on your own or with others. Devotional books are a great way to be in God's Word. If you would like some ideas of where to start, let me know.
- PRAY:** Pray daily. Take personal time for prayer. Use something as a reminder to say a prayer. For example, every time you look at your cell phone, or sit at your computer or do the dishes, or... say a prayer. Pray with your family. Each person in the family can pray for another person in the family by saying thank you for someone's high and praying about someone's lows. Pray with your church. Take home the announcement sheet and lift up in prayer those on our prayer concerns.
- SERVE:** Find ways that you can volunteer, giving of your time, talents, and treasure to further the ministry of Christ's church. Let me know if you need some ideas.

The above faith practices help us immerse ourselves in those God-shaped and God-shaping activities that are central to the faith. Although we often ask the question, "what will this do for me?" More than doing something for us, faith practices (worship, Bible study, prayer, serving) do something to us. Faith practices connect us to God and to one another. Faith practice place us intentionally "On the Road with God."

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Krista

GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS

EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

Recently an Exploratory Committee was formed at the request of our Church Council. As a result of the cottage meetings we held last fall, as well as discussing directly with members on the next steps to take regarding our building, we felt it would be beneficial to bring a group together to explore options. The charge of this committee is to look at and bring back to Council, and eventually to the congregation, how to best proceed addressing our needs regarding the building.

As many of you are aware, there are structural needs in the building that must be addressed in the very near future, along with space utilization needs that need to be discussed too. We, the Council, felt that with the timing of our building's structural needs, it would be mindful to also explore the aspect of utilizing our existing space better and exploring the option of an addition.

The Exploratory Committee is made up of members at different years of membership here at Good Shepherd, come from different backgrounds, and have a variety of needs from the church as they are at many different stages in their lives. The hope is the Committee can report back to Council in the next few months and then bring forward a recommendation to the congregation shortly thereafter. So stay tuned -- there is more to come!

Members are:
Franny Schwantz, Chair
Joe Suntken
Nate Pfeilsticker
Kareen Bigalk
Ryan King
Kaitlin Weinrich
Steve Fenske
Dan Bethke

GOOD SHEPHERD WEB SITE

Good Shepherd's website is changing locations in cyberspace. The update will make our webpage friendly to all kinds of devices, including phones. The new platform will make it easier for staff to make updates too. Lori Colwill, our webmaster, is working hard to get everything moved and ready to go. It is a bit complicated and takes time to re-do every page and all our great photos. SO, this month there may be a day or two that the webpage looks a little messed up. If it happens to you, bear with us and check again the following day. Then later this month check out the new improved site!

<http://www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/>

You will always find upcoming highlights from Good Shepherd, photos from the latest events, worship videos, and weekly devotions. Tune into the website regularly!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

MILESTONE BLANKET WORK DAY

Nothing is more fun on a cold winter day than hanging out with friends. Spend **Friday, February 5** with Good Shepherd friends making blankets for graduates and babies. Meet at church for sewing, fellowship, fun, and of course food! Sewing skills are helpful, but not required. So if you can't sew, come anyway to cut, pin, tie and most of all have fun.

BOOK GROUP IN FEBRUARY

Winter is a great time to read books and talk about them with friends. Join Good Shepherd's Book Group on **February 17 (Lenten time change)**.

Our book is *Blessings* by Anna Quindlen. You may check out a copy from the book bag in the church office. We will discuss it on **February 17 at 6:00 p.m.** at church. Soup supper will be served, so grab some soup and meet in a back classroom to talk.

The March book is *No Biking in the House without a Helmet* by Melissa Fay Greene. A library book bag is reserved so you can pick up books in the office after the February meeting.

MILESTONES

Baptisms

Blessings to Brooklyn Fay Young, who was baptized on January 24, 2016. Brooklyn is the daughter of Brandon and Megan Young.

Loss of Loved One

Our sympathies go out to Bob, Sue, Lance and Leda Tangen for the loss of their mother/grandmother, Helen Tangen, who passed away on Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

Kindergarten

EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION – STUDY ON SEXUALITY **Class held Sunday mornings between services of worship**

Starting Sunday, February 14, we will begin a 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 will take a look at different scripture passages and the different interpretations of those passages.

For our conversation and discussion we will 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 churchwide 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.

Adult Education – Sunday mornings between services

February 7 – Join us for a study on ushering and worship as offering.

February 14 , 21, 28, March 6 – Study on Sexuality (see above)

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Kindergartners: The Lord's Prayer (February 14 and 21)

We look forward to seeing kindergartners and their parents to learn "The Lord's Prayer" and about the meaning of this special prayer that Jesus gave us.

We will meet at 9:15 a.m. on February 14 and 21. Gather in the fellowship hall—the room closest to the kitchen. On **Sunday, February 28**, our kindergartners will lead the Lord's Prayer during the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. You can choose which service you will attend.

God, Kids and Money for 1st-3rd Graders: Wednesday, February 3 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

This year we are offering "God, Kids, and Money" for all children in 1st through 3rd grades and their parents. 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, February 3 from 5:30-6:30 pm**. RSVP to the church office or to carole35@charter.net so we have enough supplies.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

TOGETHER IN FAITH (Continued)

Special Together in Faith for 1st Graders & Parents: Sunday, February 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Kids and parents together will learn about ushering and what happens with money at church. Meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m. on February 7**. Then sign up to be an usher on a Sunday or Wednesday evening during Lent!

SAVE THE DATES FOR VBS 2016: BARNYARD BLESSINGS

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, June 13-16
6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Who: Children currently in Grades PreK – 4th

Watch for sign up information and volunteer opportunities in next month's newsletter.

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

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 will pay part of the fee for any student who would like to go to camp at Good Earth Village this summer! This offer is for any student Kind-9th grade. (Full scholarships are available for anyone with financial need. Just talk to Carole Joyce.)

It would be fun to have a group go together. Some Good Shepherd friends will be there the week of July 24-29. Otherwise pick any week that works for you. See the options and register at goodearthvillage.org Brochures are also available at church. Send your registration and deposit directly to Good Earth Village. Then let Carole Joyce or the church office know you are going!

Only want to go for one day and go with Good Shepherd friends? Sign up for the Adventure Day on July 28 and ride to camp with Pastor Krista. No early bird deadline this year, BUT sign up by mid-March to make sure there is space.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Confirmation ministry (7th & 8th grades) meets every **Wednesday night from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (6:00–7:00 p.m. during Lent)**. Each night begins with a meal in the fellowship hall and continues with activities and discussions that are designed to nurture faith.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday afternoon Bible study group will meet on **Thursday, February 11 at 12:00 noon** at Good Shepherd. Soup will be served.

FINANCE

GOOD SHEPHERD FINANCE REPORT

Thank you to the Finance committee for their continued support and work guiding the business side of Good Shepherd. Thank you to our exceptional bookkeeper, June Barnick, for her dedication and expertise in tracking our monthly accounting and to Lynn Eversman for her commitment to entering revenue and tracking individual giving. We are using Church Windows software to track all finances. Finally, thanks to all the volunteer offering counters for giving of your time and talents following each service. Your commitment of time and expertise is exceptional!

Thanks to all Good Shepherd members for their financial support and commitment to their annual pledge.

<u>Review of Fund Balances</u>	<u>Jan 1, 2015</u>	<u>Jan 1, 2016</u>
Check Book Balance	\$ 64,611	\$ 36,597* (Down \$28,014)
Restricted Funds Balance	\$ 7,973	\$ 19,037
Building Fund Balance	<u>\$ 51,229</u>	<u>\$106,703</u>
Total Funds	\$123,813	\$162,697

*Denotes Concern

2015 Revenue Budget	(Without Capital Appeal)	\$ 216,750
2015 Actual Revenue		\$ 210,279 (Down \$6,471)
<hr/>		
2015 Expense Budget		\$ 198,365
2015 Actual Expense		\$ 186,384 (Down \$11,981)
Mortgage Balance (5.5%)		\$ 86,539 (Reduced in 2014 by \$37,110)
Payment of \$3,292 / month – Due to be paid off in April 2018.		

Simply Giving & On-Line Giving accounted for 34% of the total revenue for December 2015.

On-line Giving Procedure – (One Time, Weekly, or Monthly Giving)

1. Go to our web site – www.goodshepherlutheran-plainview.org
2. Select ---- “Serve” and then “Give” on drop down menu
3. Click on the Cell Phone Image on the right
4. Create your Profile - Follow on Screen Directions

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

MISSION FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY

LSS (Lutheran Social Services) will be the focus of our February NOISY OFFERING.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota traces its history to 1865 when Vasa Lutheran Church opened its church to care for four children in need. Pastor Norelius came up with a community response that inspired hope and changed the life of the community. These children, new immigrants from Sweden, were the four surviving children of Mikola Erikson and his wife. Suddenly, they found themselves without home or family.

Pastor Norelius brought the children to Vasa and arranged care for them in a refurbished church basement. This later became Vasa Children's Home, Minnesota's first and oldest orphanage. Pastor Norelius saw children in need and came up with a community response that inspired hope and changed their lives and the life of the community.

Today, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota holds these values at the core of its vision and mission. Their work is grounded in two principles – God loves all people without condition and God yearns for us to love the neighbor.

These values guide the efforts of LSS and empowers us to overcome any challenge and, in doing so, achieve results that endure. Through the years, Minnesotans have continued to advocate for our citizens - children, people with disabilities, and the elderly - to ensure they have the opportunity to live and work in community with safety, dignity and hope.

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS

Thank you to all who have filled back packs for PEM school children. Pastor Krista and Kareen Bigalk transported backpacks and food while Confirmation students have filled them. We are thankful that families who need weekend food have the chance to receive it.

Our January noisy offering was sent to Brighter Tomorrows – approximately \$111.00.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

02/01	Riley Wendt	02/16	Gracelyn Grant
02/05	Jon Amos		Cindy Rettmann
	Barb Kingsley		Paul Fick
	Brynlee Matti	02/17	Jan Fiskum
02/07	Sandy Ulwelling		Ashton LaBare
	Ashley Schreiber		Jonathan Timm
	Clayton Weinrich	02/18	Franny Schwantz
02/08	Laney Gusa	02/19	Leanne Brevig
	Piper Schneider	02/20	Carol Buntrock
	Tom Welti	02/21	Steve Erwin
02/09	Brenda Crudele		Justin Gusa
02/10	Neil Weaver		Joe Weinrich
	Shannon Olstad	02/22	Buzz Christison
02/11	Nikki Goergen	02/25	Elaine Salek
	Ryan King		Kory Bigalk
02/12	Chad Getschmann	02/26	Parker Grant
	Gina Ihrke	02/27	Kirk Bartz
02/14	Andrea Bartz	02/28	Corrine Hanson
	Megan Fick		Andrea Masee
	Morgan Fick		Landon Gusa
	Avery Schumacher		

Anniversaries

02/06	Bob & Sue Tangen
02/14	Jim & Char Balcome
02/16	Steve Fenske & Carol Goergen-Fenske
	George & Karen Back
02/26	Travis & Gina Ihrke

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

*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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**You can easily judge the character of a man by how he
treats those who can do nothing for him.**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

PO Box 355
Plainview, MN 55964

Address Service Requested
Issue 191, Published Monthly

Presorted Special
Standard Mail
US Postage Paid
Plainview, MN 55964
Permit No. 68

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 March 2016 Newsletter is

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22.