

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



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LENTEN SEASON – COMING SOON!!

LENT SCHEDULE 2017

**Ash Wednesday
March 1, 7:00 PM**

Service of Worship with
Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Communion

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT – 7:00 PM

Half hour service of worship

**March 1
March 8
March 15
March 22
March 29
April 5**

**Soup suppers will be served each Wednesday evening
during Lent from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.**

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

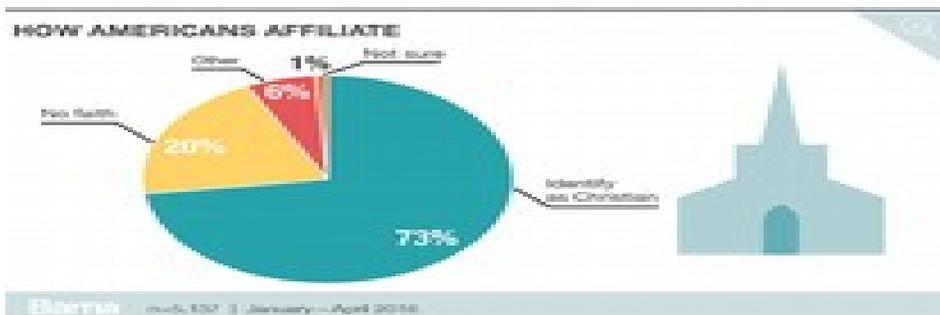
Lent begins March 1st. Lenten devotions for adults will be available in the narthex. Please take one for your Lenten journey. A resource for families will be available too.

Inside This Issue

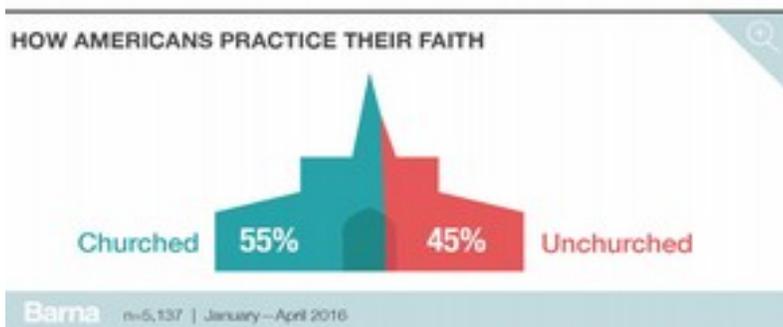
- 2 Pastor's Note
- 3 Intern Pastor's Note
- 4 Congregational Life/Youth
- 4 Missions & Stewardship
- 5-6 Education
- 7 Finance
- 8 Community
- 9 Birthdays and Anniversaries

PASTOR'S NOTE

According to a recent Barna report, 73% of Americans identify themselves as Christians.



Of those who say they are Christian, 45% report that they are unchurched:



The statistics about the number of people who are Christian and the number of people who go to church can some times be very depressing. Many reports and studies show declines year after year after year. While we may long for the days when almost everyone we knew attended a church and more respect was given to honoring Sunday (and even Wednesday evenings) for church, we are now presented with an opportunity to invite others to experience the grace of God through the body of Christ, the church.

When we turn to scripture one of the main ways people come to experience God's grace is through invitation. "Come and follow me," Jesus says and together the people of God live out their faith in the world. Jesus knew we need him and we need each other, so Jesus invites us, and Jesus invites us to invite others.

Inviting someone to worship or to another church event is always a risk. After all, we might get turned down. One of my colleagues tells the story about how he grew up never having gone to church. When he got to college, his roommate invited him to go with him to worship. My colleague said 'no.' The next week his roommate invited him again and received the same answer. This continued for over a year. If I had been that college roommate I probably would have given up, but that roommate didn't give up, and one Sunday the answer was 'yes.' This colleague would never have become a Christian, let alone a pastor, if his roommate hadn't invited him to church (and kept inviting him).

Jesus' invitation to "come and follow me" changes people's lives. Who are the people around us who need an invitation? How might God be inviting us to invite someone else?

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

INTERN PASTOR'S NOTE

Trying to live and love in such divisive times.

I think more than ever today I second guess what I am to do. I find on many different social media feeds people cherry picking Biblical verses to justify their stance. I, as someone who attempts to study this ancient script known as the Bible, struggle with the various ways the Bible is used to justify a particular point of view. I want the Bible to justify MY point of view, so I easily find fault in any other theology. However, this too is missing the point. I too am guilty of making a line in the sand and declaring right and wrong. Declaring "Good" and "Bad." Declaring "US" and "Them." I too am guilty of wanting Jesus, God on MY side of the line and will use scripture to justify my point.

This is not what we are called to do. We are called to Love. "Love our neighbor as ourselves." (Matthew 19:19) It does not mean that we have to give up what we believe in, but we are called to love both sides. We can have an opinion. We can be passionate about what we believe in. Yet, in the end we are called to love one another regardless of where the other comes from. Humbly walking with our God is to recognize that we are all created in God's image and there is no "us" against "them," for if we make that separation we have lost sight of God. We need each other.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.....²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'.... But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6,21,24-26

I leave you with a quote from a famous theologian Juergen Moltmann, who urges us not to lose our opinions or our passions, but embrace them as we also embrace each other.

"Hope is lived when we come out of our shells and participate in the lives of others, in both joy and pain."

Vicar Nicole

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

MILESTONE BLANKET WORK DAY

Nothing is more fun on a cold winter day than hanging out with friends. Spend **Friday, February 17th** with Good Shepherd friends making blankets for graduates and others. 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 for February! **We have a new start time — 7:15 pm** because of the new Worship on Wednesday. Come following worship if you attend.

Our book is *The Boy from Baby House 10* by Alan Philips. You may check out a copy from the book bag in the church office. We will discuss it on **February 15th at 7:15 pm** in Carole's office in the fellowship hall.

The March book is *Let's Pretend this Never Happened* by Jenny Lawson. A library book bag is reserved so you can pick up books in the office after the February meeting.

MILESTONES

Baptisms

Blessings to Whitlee Jordan Flies, who was baptized on January 15, 2017. Whitlee is the daughter of Zach & Tessa Flies.

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS

Thank you to all who have filled back packs for PEM school children. Jake Thompson has transported backpacks. Pastor Krista has transported food. 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 given to The Eagles' Cancer Telethon – a total of \$242.81.

EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION

Class held from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

For the February adult education classes, we will continue to listen and discuss pod casts from Luther Seminaries "*Enter the Bible*". These pod casts are about 15 minutes in length where we hear Luther Seminary Professors discuss a variety of topics (or common questions) found as we read the Bible. Topics that include; How to read the Bible, How Paul feels about women, Violence in the Bible, Angels, Icons and so much more. Each week we will choose a topic, listen and discuss. We would love for you to join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Room.

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Kindergartners: The Lord's Prayer (February 12 and 19 at 9:15 a.m.)

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 12 and 19. Gather in the fellowship hall—the room closest to the kitchen. On **Sunday, February 26**, our kindergartners will lead the Lord's Prayer during worship services. Sunday school students will sing during the 10:30 service that day.

1st Grade: God and Gifts—February 5 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 am on February 7. Then sign up to be an usher on a Sunday or Wednesday during Lent!

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Confirmation ministry (7th & 8th grades) meets every **Wednesday night from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.** 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 9 at 1:00 p.m.** at Good Shepherd.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

**Save the Dates for VBS 2017:
Monday - Thursday, June 12-15
6:00 pm - 7:45 pm**

**Who: Children currently in
Grades Pre K- 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 of 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.)

It would be fun to have a group go together. Some Good Shepherd friends will be there the week of July 16-21. 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? Adventure Day is back. Talk to Carole about taking a group. Sign up by mid-March to make sure there is space.

FINANCE

COMMUNITY

GREEN PRAIRIE REHABILITATION CENTER AND ASSISTED LIVING

With a new year comes new fundraising ideas to support our Chair'itable Affair. Our goal to purchase 40 recliners for our loved ones at the home is well underway. These chairs will be purchased one chair at a time as the funds become available. Donations from members of our community and previous fundraising allowed us to purchase 16 of those 40 chairs and we wait patiently for them to arrive.

Saturday, February 11th we will be hosting a Ribs/Sauerkraut/Mashed Potato/Homemade Bars/Milk/Coffee supper. This will be held at the American Legion in Plainview and we will serve 5-7 p.m.

You may attend by purchasing tickets for a very reasonable price of \$12.50 per person or \$25 per couple. **There will be NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.**

Tickets may be purchased from Friends of Seniors board members at:

The Woods - Mary Lou Judge

Peoples State Bank - Diane Speedling

KBS - Diane Ellringer

Green Prairie Assisted Living - Joann Klavetter

Tickets may also be purchased from other board members:

Randy Boettcher, Peggy Ching, Penny Hoekstra, Barb Larson, Don Luckstein, Augie Schleicher and Maurie Young

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE

Volunteering at Good Earth Village: Volunteers are integral to the ministry of Good Earth Village, and enjoy making a difference through a variety of tasks. Current volunteers give their time and talent for lawn care and landscaping, data entry, cooking or cleaning assistance, administrative tasks, camp store operation and more. Do you have skills to contribute on a recurring or one-time basis? Help this community of faithful disciples engage the world as followers of Christ. Contact Good Earth Village to see what might be a good fit. For more information call (507)346-2494.

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

Good Earth Village All Seasons Tours: Come and see the beautiful bluffs and valleys of Good Earth Village. The staff are ready to show you a great view unique to each season. As the summer counselors sing in a favorite camp song, "God's fingerprints are everywhere." This awe-inspiring setting is accessible and ready to schedule. For more information, contact tina@goodearthvillage.org, or call (507)346-2494.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

02/01	Riley Wendt	02/14	Avery Schumacher
02/05	Jon Amos	02/16	Gracelyn Grant
	Barb Kingsley		Cindy Rettmann
	Brynlee Matti		Paul Fick
02/07	Sandy Ulwelling	02/17	Jan Fiskum
	Ashley Schreiber		Ashton LaBare
	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	02/26	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

Anniversaries

02/06	Bob & Sue Tangen
	Lee Olson & Marcia Woodward
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

Salvation guaranteed, or your sins cheerfully refunded.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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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 March 2017 Newsletter is

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.