

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH TRIP

Please pray for our Good Shepherd youth and adult leader John Folkert as they experience the wonders of God's creation in the Boundary Waters July 23-28. Their trip will be led by a guide from Wilderness Canoe Base, an ELCA Bible camp. The camp is located on an island in Seagull Lake. They will canoe, portage, rock climb, fish, and listen to God in the pristine wilderness. Pray for safety and for God's Spirit to move among them on this journey.

Join us for a blessing at the **Wednesday, July 19th, 7:00 pm service**. Send off will be at **6:00 or 6:30 am on Sunday, July 23**.

FAITH ON THE GO

Jesus is with us wherever we go. How exciting to remember God's presence wherever we are this summer! Bring Sunday's Bible reading with you.

- Sign up to receive "Walking with the Shepherd" devotions via email or Facebook or at <http://walkingwiththeshepherd.com>. The once a week message is easy to read on your cell phone or computer.
- Check out Sunday's sermon at <http://goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/video/>

Remember to take part in WOW Worship on Wednesday at 7:00 pm whenever you can. This informal worship is served up with cold drinks and treats as well as God's Word and prayer.

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PASTOR'S NOTE

It's a bird...

It's a plan...

It's ??????

A Super Hero!

During Vacation Bible School and with the 7th – 9th graders we have been talking a lot about super heroes. Many of us grew up with one super hero or another, whether it was in movies, television, cartoons or comics, and today the super hero culture continues. Block-buster movies still center around super heroes like Batman and Spiderman. This summer Wonder Woman is on the big screen. And for those a little younger, Incredibles 2 will eventually be in the theaters.

In one of our skits during Vacation Bible School a wanna-be super hero wants to save the world and is informed of some bad news that really is good news: None of us can save the world. That may sound like bad news at first because it deals with the reality that none of us are fast enough, strong enough, smart enough to save the world. But the good news is that we don't have to. That job has already been taken care of by Jesus. Jesus really is the true super hero. Jesus is the one who saves us and the world by conquering the enemies of sin, death and the devil and then giving to us and all believers the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Although we cannot save the world, God has called us to help in this super hero work of sharing and living out the good news.

During Vacation Bible School, the children put their super hero skills to work raising funds for Feed My Starving Children. Just a quarter provides a meal for a child in this world who is hungry. In addition, many signed up to help pack meals at the Hiawatha Valley Mobile Park in Plainview (see Feed My Starving Children article in this newsletter). Let the church office or me know if you also want to be part of this super hero work of helping to feed starving children.

The 7th-9th graders have been busy doing super hero work as well. They have helped the area Food Shelf in Elgin, did some prep work for Vacation Bible School, made blankets for Hands and Voices, helped do inventory at the Plainview library, and made bowls for Channel One. These super heroes discovered that they can help people and have some fun at the same time.

All of us have been blessed with gifts and talents from God. As we put these gifts and talents to service in sharing and living out the good news, loving God and neighbor, we too our part of God's super heroes here in this world.

What gifts do you have? What talents do you have?

It's not a bird. It's not a plane – it's you one of God's super heroes in the world.

In Christ,
Pastor Krista

INTERN PASTOR'S NOTE

I realize that mental health awareness month was in May, but as I sat in our Congregational Care meeting the other evening, I am struck by the number of people in our midst who struggle daily with mental illness. It is always a good time to bring to light something that haunts so many daily.

The stigma, the perceived notion that mental illness is somehow the fault of the person it affects still astonishes me. I suffer from depression and anxiety. I have struggled with it for years, just as my mother has and my grandmother did. I cannot overcome it by going for a run or willing myself to overpower it -- just as someone with diabetes or cancer cannot overpower their illness by their own willpower. Believe me, I have tried! I have tried because I have given in to the noise around me that said it is somehow a flaw of my own doing and, therefore, I can choose to undo it. I have gone without medication and tried to manage it. I am successful for a while, but then end up in a puddle at my doctor's office begging for help. Luckily, I have enough sense to get there -- for many, the mental illness is too strong and it doesn't end well.

I realize what you are thinking. Those that know me think -- she doesn't act depressed. She doesn't look depressed. Depression doesn't look a certain way, and certainly doesn't act a certain way. The reason is that it is internal. Just as you normally cannot see the cancer inside someone, but believe the doctors when they say that it is there -- the same is true for mental illness. The synopsis in my brain doesn't work right. Even with medication I fight the thoughts in my head, they are just not as overpowering.

I share this, not for pity -- PLEASE no! I share because I want you to know it is not something to be ashamed of. We are all one body in Christ. When one of us is suffering, we all suffer. We cannot judge or assume what one person is going through is different or easier, or not valid. There are so many people in our midst that suffer from mental illness. We cannot ignore them, or choose to think that they don't suffer from a valid illness (because we don't understand it). Pray. Support. But the best thing you can do is realize that mental illness is real. We cannot ignore it.

"I will satisfy the weary, and all who are faint I will replenish." Jeremiah 31:25

Vicar Nicole

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

2017-2018 GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK GROUP BOOK SELECTIONS

Here is the list of what the Good Shepherd Book Group will read for the next program year. If you are looking for a book to read this summer, try these. Then talk about it with other Good Shepherd book lovers at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. All are invited!

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOOK TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>
September 20	<i>All the Lights You Cannot See</i>	Anthony Doerr
October 18	* <i>Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet</i>	Janie Ford
November 15	<i>The Lilac Girls</i>	Martha Kelly
December 20 (or 13)	* <i>Wonder</i>	RJ Palacio
January 17	* <i>Go Set a Watchman</i>	Harper Lee
February 21 (Lenten time change)	* <i>Orange is the New Black</i>	Piper Kerman
March 21 (Lenten time change)	* <i>Where'd You Go, Bernadette</i>	Maria Semple
April 18	* <i>A Slave in the White House</i>	Paul Jennings
May 16 (or a week earlier?)	<i>We Are Going to Pick Potatoes</i>	Irene Berman

*Library book bag.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

Baptism

Blessings to Josie Rae Neuman, who was baptized on May 14th. Josie is the daughter of Tim and Jenny (Yust) Neuman.

Blessings to Caroline Jean King, who was baptized on June 25th. Caroline is the daughter of Ryan and Brittany King.

Blessings to Jackson Joseph Bunne, who was baptized on June 25th. Jackson is the son of Joseph and Kelly Bunne.

Loss of Loved Ones -- Our sympathies go out to:

Marget Christison and her family for the loss of her mother, Edna Mae Niss, who passed away May 20, 2017.

Roberta Kurth, Kareen Bigalk, Karla Appel, and Kim Lyons and heir families for the loss of their brother/uncle, Tom Joyce, who passed away on May 19, 2017.

Dawn Suntken and her family for the loss of Dawn's father, Norman Sjarpe, who passed away June 10, 2017.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members who were received into the Good Shepherd family on Sunday, June 4th: Zach Flies, Susan Niemi, Zachary House, and Gene Edward Trowbridge III (Trey).

EDUCATION

2017 VBS: SUPER HEROES OF THE BIBLE

Super Heroes of the Bible was the theme of Vacation Bible School in June. 29 kids, 15 leaders, and parents & grandparents learned about Joshua, Daniel, Esther, and David through songs, games, skits, and Bible stories. Favorites of the week included...Bible Bandit, parachute games, Be Bold, throwing water balloons at Goliath, super hero costumes, shooting rockets, yummy snacks, and praising JC—Jesus Christ who saves us all! It was a special treat to kick off VBS with a pool party sponsored by Thrivent. The new Legos from Thrivent were also a hit as we told the Bible stories.

Our offering will go to Feed My Starving Children and the kids look forward to helping in the mobile food pack right here in Plainview in August. They brought enough money to cover food for 250 meals!!!!!!

Thank you to everyone who made it a great week! A special thanks to Erin Bluhm for coordinating VBS! Check out the photo gallery which is on the Facebook page and will be on the website too:
<http://goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/>

JUNIOR HIGH SUPER HEROES

During June we held 3 super hero days for our junior high students to serve in the community. The youth had fun hanging out together and reaching out to organizations in the community. Be sure to check out Good Shepherd's Facebook page and websites to see photos of their adventures for



- Elgin Food Shelf
- Channel One
- Good Shepherd fellowship treats
- Good Shepherd VBS
- Hands & Voices
- Plainview Library
- Whitewater State Park

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE

Lots of Good Shepherd kids are enjoying GEV Bible camp this summer. Seven youth will spend a whole week or stay for a couple of nights. Another six went to Adventure day on June 27. We give thanks for the ministry of this ELCA camp, the counselors, and the way God works in and through this beautiful place. May God impact our youth through their experiences at GEV.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

PASSING ON THE FAITH

Sharing faith with children, youth, and each other is one of the most important things we do as a faith community. Much of this happens at home, but we also learn Bible stories and God's love here at church. We need caring adults and high school youth to teach and help with Sunday school AND mentor with Confirmation on Wednesdays. Is God calling you to share your gifts? Please consider this call to be a caring adult in the lives of our children and youth.

We need team teachers for Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and possibly 3rd-4th, 5th and 6th. The teachers we already have want to share their class—allowing flexibility to be gone up to half of the weekends.

We can always use Sunday school helpers and substitutes as well. Contact Carole Joyce at 269-9374 or carole35@charter.net if you have questions or would like to serve. Remember you will learn and grow as much as the kids! That's God's grace at work!

FINANCE

We have both **Simply Giving and On-Line Giving systems** all set up for easy and free access – just let us know how we can assist you. Please feel free to contact the church office or Tom Anderson directly (507-993-8326).

Good Shepherd Lutheran Financial Summary Notes ---- May 31, 2017

General Account	\$ 12,803
Restricted Accounts	\$ 24,052 (w/o Bldg. Fund)
Capital Campaign Account	\$ 222,005
Loan Receivable	\$ 3,017
Total Short Term Assets	\$ 261,877

Fixed Assets	\$ 903,554
Total Assets	\$1,165,431

Mortgage Balance	\$ 38,103
Equity	\$1,127,327

Check Book Trends (General Fund & Restricted Fund W/O Capital Campaign Fund)

January	\$ 35,135
February	\$ 34,547
March	\$ 35,882
April	\$ 38,386
May	\$ 36,855

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Hiawatha Valley Mobile Pack **Plainview, MN**

There are children in our world who are in desperate need of food. The famine in East Africa is something the world hasn't seen in over 70 years. In Somalia, people are running out of food and water. Animals and crops are dying. In Haiti hundreds of families are living in damp, disease-ridden caves. Their homes, livestock and crops destroyed by Hurricane Matthew. Feed My Starving Children seeks to meet the needs of starving children around the world. Through Feed My Starving Children 745,496 kids are fed daily. In order to make this possible, each year more than 1 million people volunteer to pack meals.

You can help make a difference with Feed My Starving Children. On August 25th and 26th, you can volunteer to pack meals at the Hiawatha Valley Mobile Pack right here in Plainview at the United Church of Christ and/or you can provide a financial donation for the meals that are sent to children around the world. Each meal costs just less than 25 cents and \$80 feeds a child for a year. This year's Vacation Bible School offering was designated for Feed My Starving Children.

If you are interested in packing, there are 4 different options for shifts:

- Friday, August 25th 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm at Plainview Church of Christ
- Friday, August 25th 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Plainview Church of Christ
- Saturday, August 26th 9:00 am – 11:00 am at Plainview Church of Christ
- Saturday, August 26th Noon – 2:00 pm at Plainview Church of Christ

Anyone 5 years old or older can help with packing meals and there are jobs for those who wish to sit down. If you are interested in packing, contact Pastor Krista at the church office and let her know what shift.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Sunday school gave their offering this year to the Elgin ambulance. It was fun to give the money (a check for \$450) in person to Katy Johnson as we toured the ambulance. They are over half way to purchasing a new hydraulic lift to help transport patients.

A Bible school offering of a little over \$100 will go to Feed My Starving Children. This will make more than 250 meals! The MN based organization feeds hungry children around the world. We are excited to have a chance to pack food for FMSC when a mobile pack comes to Plainview! Everyone age 5 and older is invited to be a part of the food pack at Church of Christ on August 25-26. Watch for sign ups in the narthex! Two hours of time packs hundreds of meals. What a great way to make a difference!

JULY NOISY OFFERING

The July noisy offering will go to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester, so "dig deep into those pockets" and give to this worthy cause! The noisy offering happens the 2nd Sunday of every month.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

07/02	Alexis Deyo		07/17	John Salek
07/03	Cheryl Schneider			Brent Masee
07/04	Dave Haack			Alexis Yust
	Tom Anderson		07/19	Colene Rau
	Jason Bluhm			Gavin Wilhelmson
07/06	Cheryl Endres		07/21	Aiden Engler
07/09	Jayden Ihrke			Collin LeVan
07/10	Karen Anderson		07/22	Chris Henderson
	Penny Simonson		07/23	Eric Hanson
	Gavin Folkert		07/24	Brandi Yust
07/11	Stan Tesch		07/25	Al Ninas
07/12	Sara Steele			Shirley Lehmann
	Scott Folkert			Don Kuschel
	Ellie Kobler			Quintin Wilhelmson
	Marc Melcher		07/26	Paul Appel
07/13	Steve Tradup		07/27	Carole Joyce
07/14	Aiden Klennert			Kali Jurgenson
07/15	Ginny Mielke			Evelyn Pfeilsticker
	Wayne Wendt		07/28	Caraline Cray
	Brady Beckel		07/29	Todd Wangen
07/16	Paige Gudmundson		07/30	Nora Henry
07/17	Matthew Hanson			

Anniversaries

07/03	Bob & Cheryl Endres		07/16	Roger & Jackie Arens
	Chris & Alice Henderson		07/18	Pastors Krista & Kris Henning-Ferkin
07/07	Justin & Jennifer Gusa		07/19	Joe & Sandy Ulwelling
07/12	Marty & Sarah Hassig		07/23	Ryan & Brittany King
07/13	Blaine & Misty Biers		07/26	Jeff & Shelley Henry

*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

***It takes the same amount of energy to worry
as it does to believe***



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 August 2016 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, JULY 22.