

# The Shepherd's Staff

March 2016

Issue 192

## LENT 2016 – ON THE ROAD WITH GOD

### Wednesdays in Lent – 7:00 PM Half hour service of worship

- March 2:** Challenges on the Way  
(Acts 27:13-26)
- March 9:** Needing Help – Helping on the Way  
(Ruth 1:15-17)
- March 16:** Hope to Keep Going  
(Joshua 1:1-9)

### Contact Information

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## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- Palm Sunday** **March 20, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**  
Bystander or Companion  
Between Services:  
Palm Sunday Breakfast  
Easter Egg Hunt
- Maundy Thursday** **March 24, 7:00 PM**  
Tired Feet and Nourishment
- Good Friday** **March 25, 7:00 PM**  
Cross Roads
- Easter Sunday** **March 27, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**  
Christ is Risen!

### Inside This Issue

- 2 Pastor's Note
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- 10 Missions & Stewardship News
- 11 Birthdays and Anniversaries

## PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT - MARCH 20

**Breakfast Served 8:30 - 10:30 AM**

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

**9:30 AM - Education Hour Egg Hunt and the telling of the Holy Week - Easter story for families and children. Bring your Easter basket and experience the story and events of Holy Week and Easter.**

## PASTOR'S NOTE

### Waiting for Resurrection

Dear partners in ministry

On Palm Sunday, in Confirmation, during Sunday School, and in 1<sup>st</sup> communion instruction, we often take time to talk about and review the events of Holy Week.

We start with Palm Sunday when Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" From there we go to Maundy Thursday. We talk about how Jesus and his disciples gathered together to celebrate the Passover, and how Jesus gave new meaning to the bread and wine, giving us his body and blood in this meal for the forgiveness of our sins, life, and salvation. We go on to discuss the events that happen after the meal: praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas' betrayal of Jesus, Jesus' arrest, Peter's denial of Jesus and Jesus being put on trial. Then we move to Good Friday and talk about Jesus' death on the cross. When I'm teaching, I then like to ask the question, "So, what happened the next day?"

Invariably someone will say Jesus rose from the dead, and I'll explain, "no, not yet." It's interesting how we would like to jump to Easter. We perhaps see this desire in the difference in church attendance numbers from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. After all, we don't like to stay in those times that make us uncomfortable. We want to jump to the good news. We want Easter and resurrection.

Again, I'll ask, "So what happened on Saturday?" After a few more guesses, I let them know that it's a trick question because for the most part nothing happened. God's people were waiting.

Waiting is hard. Waiting feels like it takes forever, and yet, much of our lives we end up waiting on something or someone. After a LONG winter, we're waiting for spring. Students are waiting for summer. High school seniors are waiting for graduation. Many college seniors and graduates are waiting for a job offer. We wait for test results. We wait for someone to call. We wait for someone to show up. We wait to save enough. We wait.

As much as we don't like the waiting, God is still at work. Even in the tomb. Even in the darkness. Even in the waiting God is at work.

One of my seminary professors told our class that it was a good thing that Jesus didn't rise from the dead immediately because sometimes we have to wait.

And we wait.

But we do not wait forever.

What happens next? It's Easter! Jesus is alive! Life has come from death! And that changes everything. Jesus' resurrection reveals to us that God's desire is for life for all of us and for this world, and God will do anything and everything to make that happen. Right now we experience glimpses of this abundant life that God desires for us, but for the most part we wait. We wait in hope knowing that because Jesus lives, we too shall live, and we too shall have the fullness of life God wants for us.

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

# CONGREGATION NEWS

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Outgoing Council Members

On behalf of the Good Shepherd congregation, we want to thank our outgoing council members Chris Henderson, Jenny Grover, Kevin (Goody) Gudmundson, and Sherry Tuxen for their contribution and hard work as council members. Great job! Good Shepherd appreciates you!

### Incoming Council Members

A warm welcome to our new council members Karla Appel, Kory Bigalk, Cindy Fuerstneau, and Joe Suntken! Thank you for your commitment to your church family!

### Current Church Council Members and Positions

Tina Wangen	President	<a href="mailto:wangen.tina@mayo.edu">wangen.tina@mayo.edu</a>
Dan Bethke	Vice President	<a href="mailto:dan.bethke@lupient.com">dan.bethke@lupient.com</a>
Cindy Fuerstneau	Secretary	<a href="mailto:cyfuerstneau@msn.com">cyfuerstneau@msn.com</a>
Tom Anderson	Treasurer & Finance	<a href="mailto:tom.plainviewfbm@embarqmail.com">tom.plainviewfbm@embarqmail.com</a>
Sibyl Mason	Congregational Life/Youth	<a href="mailto:sibylm12@gmail.com">sibylm12@gmail.com</a>
Karla Appel	Education	<a href="mailto:appel.karla@mayo.edu">appel.karla@mayo.edu</a>
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Steve Tradup	Worship & Music	<a href="mailto:stradup@hotmail.com">stradup@hotmail.com</a>
Kory Bigalk	At large member	<a href="mailto:kqbigalk@aol.com">kqbigalk@aol.com</a>
Steve Fenske	At large member	

Feel free to contact any one of the Council members if you have any questions regarding Good Shepherd.

## MILESTONES

### Baptisms

Blessings to Brody Michael Lyons, who was baptized on February 14, 2016. Brody is the son of Adam and Kimberly Lyons.

### Loss of Loved One

Our sympathies go out to Shannon Ramthun and her family for the loss of their grandfather/great-grandfather, Wally Johnson, who passed away on Friday, February 12, 2016.

### New Members

Welcome to the following new members who were received into the Good Shepherd family on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>: Chelsea Dinsdale, Wayne and Ellen Miller, and Brandon, Megan and Jackson Young (Brooklyn is already a member through baptism).

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards, visits, and food after my accident. A special thanks to Pastor Krista and the ladies that made the blanket you gave to me, and to Craig and Lisa for their fast response to the accident. Thank you! Bob Sloan

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH NEWS

## MANY HANDS NEEDED

Good Shepherd literally wraps babies in God's love when they are baptized. Each baby is given a tag blanket at baptism to symbolize God's love, which will surround them for the rest of their life. EVERYONE is encouraged and invited to help work on these blankets on **Wednesday, March 9, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.** Come for the Lenten soup supper. Then take a few minutes before worship to help. If you can cut with a scissors, pick a color of ribbon, or stick a pin, you have all the skills necessary!

In baptism, children are welcomed into God's family. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each blanket we give has been made by many, many hands from the Good Shepherd family? Children and youth are invited to help too.

## MILESTONE BLANKET WORK DAY

Nothing is more fun on a cold winter day than hanging out with friends. Spend **Friday, March 11** 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. This will be our last work day of the winter, so don't miss it!

## BOOK GROUP IN MARCH

The March book is *No Biking in the House Without a Helmet* by Melissa Greene. A library book bag is reserved so you can pick up books in the church office any time. Discussion will be **Wednesday, March 16, at 6:00 pm.** Note the earlier time because of soup supper and Lenten worship. Anyone who is interested may join the conversation.

The April book is *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. We have waited and waited to get this book! It should be an awesome discussion. A library book bag will be in the church office.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Parents and children are invited to some fun **during the Education Hour at 9:30 a.m. on March 20, Palm Sunday.** Join other young families for an Easter egg hunt and the Easter story. Please bring your own basket. Contact Marty Hassig at [hassigplc@yahoo.com](mailto:hassigplc@yahoo.com) to participate. All families and children are also invited to come for breakfast which will be served from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

### 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.

# EDUCATION NEWS

## MARCH SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION

### **Adult Education: Study on Sexuality -- Class held Sunday mornings between services of worship**

In March 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 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**

March 6 and 13 – Study on Sexuality (see above)

**March 20 and 27 – No Adult Education – Palm Sunday and Easter**

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday afternoon Bible study will meet **March 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** at Good Shepherd.

## **EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED ...**

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and above, with children receiving their first communion on Maundy Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>March 6</b>	<b>2:00 - 4:00 pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 8</b>	<b>3:30 - 5:30 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 12</b>	<b>10:00 am – 12:00 Noon</b>

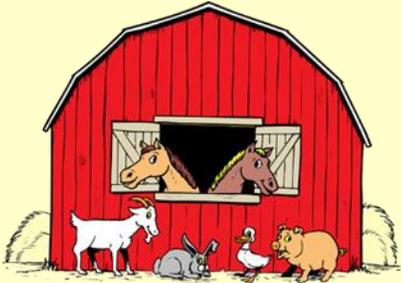
Although First Communion and First Communion instruction is offered for children in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and above, not every child is ready at this time to receive Communion. We encourage parents and children to be in conversation and pray about whether or not their child is ready to receive this sacrament.

Students participating in First Communion Preparation are invited to **receive their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday Worship service at 7:00 PM, March 24.** 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.

### **GOD, KIDS AND MONEY FOR 1<sup>ST</sup>-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS** **Rescheduled for Wednesday, April 6 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm**

The "God, Kids, and Money" class for all children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades and for their parents was snowed out! So we will offer it on April 6 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. 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! Yes, you can invite a friend and their family. Yes, there will be a cool take-home tool as you continue to teach your child about money!

## EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED ...



### VBS 2016: Barnyard Blessings

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

**Time:** 6:00 - 7:45 pm

**Who:** Children Currently in Grades PreK – 3<sup>rd</sup>

Children currently ages 3 years through 3rd grade are invited to attend with a caring adult.

This years VBS will be held **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday night from 6:00 - 7:45 pm.**  
**You will not want to miss the amazing surprise on Thursday night!**

Sign up is coming soon. Contact Erin Bluhm (876-0141 or [erinb@bluhmandgrow.com](mailto:erinb@bluhmandgrow.com)) or Carole Joyce ([carole35@charter.net](mailto:carole35@charter.net) or 269-9374) with any questions.

### Volunteers Needed!

We are currently looking for youth and adult volunteers to help with VBS 2016 God's Big Backyard, which will be held June 13 - 16 from 6:00 - 7:45 pm. If you are interested in helping, please contact Erin Bluhm ([erinb@bluhmandgrow.com](mailto:erinb@bluhmandgrow.com) or 876-0141) or Carole Joyce ([carole35@charter.net](mailto:carole35@charter.net) or 269-9374) to sign up. We will have a planning meeting on April 3 at 11:30 am.

### SUMMER FUN FOR 3<sup>RD</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS: JULY 11-14

We are excited to bring the Good Earth Village camp staff to Good Shepherd to lead a Bible camp experience right here at church! From 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, counselors will lead games, songs, skits, Bible stories, and crafts. This Monday -Thursday adventure is cheaper than day care, but way more fun! This is open to ANYONE in the PEM area, so have your children invite their friends too.

## **EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED ...**

### **SIGN UP NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN BIBLE CAMP ADVENTURES THIS SUMMER...**

#### **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 students in grades Kindergarten - 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.
- GEV recommends you register by early to mid-March to guarantee the week you want.

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 that week. If July 25 - 29 doesn't work for you, choose any week that does.

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 Pastor Krista.

#### **GOOD SHEPHERD WEB SITE**

Good Shepherd's website is updated regularly. Check it out at:

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

- Find the latest news on the Home page!
- Find the VBS registration form on the Summer Ministry page soon!
- Find photos from recent events on the News page under events. Maybe you will see someone you know in the photos of Together in Faith or the soup suppers!
- Read devotions written to go along with Sunday's Bible reading. Or sign up to get them via email. Go to the Worship page and click on blog.

# FINANCE NEWS

## FINANCE REPORT

For **On-Line Giving**, go to our Web-site: [goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org](http://goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org). Here you can make a single contribution or schedule a regular contribution from any bank account. You have full control and constant access to your historical giving. Please feel free to contact me with any questions relating to Simply Giving or On-Line Giving. Both methods are easy to use and provide full control by the contributor to alter at any time.

Tom Anderson, Finance Chair.  
Web Site- Located under "**Serve & Give**"

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN FINANCIAL SUMMARY NOTES ---- FEB 1, 2016

General Account	\$	36,187
Restricted Account	\$	13,422 (w/o Bldg. Fund)
Building Fund Account	\$	103,889
Loan Receivable	\$	<u>7,911</u>
<b>Total Short Term Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>161,406</b>
Fixed Assets	\$	887,909
Total Assets	\$	1,049,538
*****		
Mortgage Balance	\$	83,644
<b>Equity</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>965,894</b>

## **MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

### **NOISY OFFERING + Minnesota Food Share's March Campaign = FOOD for the HUNGRY!!!**

The second Sunday of every month we collect a NOISY OFFERING. This noisy offering is given to a designated charity. Our March noisy offering is always specified to go to the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf. the ELCA Malaria

Cash/Check donations are the best way to contribute to the Food Shelf because of the access the Food Shelf has to distribution programs that allow them TREMENDOUS buying power with your cash donations; however, food items will not be turned away. If you are able to help, please write out an extra check, made out to Good Shepherd and place it in the offering plate in addition to your regular offering. Note "food shelf" on the memo. At the end of the March, Good Shepherd will forward one check to the PEM Food Shelf to help with their March Campaign. Along with March's noisy offering, the Lenten offerings will also be directed to the Food Shelf.

### **"THE 40 CAN CHALLENGE"**

The Plainview Knights of Columbus have issued a friendly challenge, "The 40 Can Challenge", to the area churches and businesses to collect cans of food for the area food shelf. For every 1000 pounds of cans donated they will give \$100 to the school backpack program. You are invited to bring your cans of food to church. We will be in need of someone who can load the cans in their truck and get them weighed at the elevator (they'll weigh the truck empty and then loaded). The 40 Can Challenge will take place over the time of Lent. Since Lent is 40 days (plus the Sundays), see how many cans you and your family can donate over that time, and we will see what we can do as a church.

### **GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS**

Did you know that ALL of Good Shepherd's Wednesday night Lenten offering goes to the PEM Food Shelf? Over 200 families use our local food shelf! Please take this opportunity to God's work — feeding the hungry. A special thank you to the many Good Shepherd members who volunteer regularly at the Food Shelf.

Cans of food are building up in the sanctuary! Join in the friendly competition between PEM churches and business as we see who can bring the most canned goods for the Food Shelf. Money will be given to the school backpack program based on how many pounds are donated.

Thank you to the Good Shepherd families for providing food for the Lenten soup suppers. A special thanks to the youth for setting up and cleaning up. Any donations will go to the summer mission trip and mission outreach by the youth.

Our February noisy offering brought in \$196.15, which will be sent to Lutheran Social Services. Thank you for your support!

# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## Birthdays

<b>03/02</b>	Erin Bluhm		<b>03/19</b>	Bonnie McMillin
	Jordyn Anderson			Jerilyn Horton-Schumann
<b>03/05</b>	Larissa Jurgenson		<b>03/20</b>	Randy Wendt
<b>03/06</b>	Owen Johnson			Carter Balcome
	Brady Wehrs		<b>03/22</b>	Jim Balcome
	Harper Schneider		<b>03/23</b>	Carson Rahman
<b>03/07</b>	Jackie Welti		<b>03/24</b>	Marc Anderson
<b>03/09</b>	Caleb Getschmann		<b>03/25</b>	Gene Bergstrom
<b>03/10</b>	Diane Fick			Jan Sackreiter
<b>03/11</b>	Jayden Munsch			Mason Rahman
<b>03/12</b>	Jacob Suntken		<b>03/26</b>	Dick Rasmussen
<b>03/13</b>	Bob Shanks			Craig Beck
	Jason Melbostad		<b>03/27</b>	Tina Wangen
<b>03/14</b>	Matthew Sackreiter			Angalee Schmidt
	Lukas Klennert		<b>03/28</b>	Roger Rettmann
<b>03/15</b>	Michelle Wendt			Jesalynn Bluhm
	Tara Ellinghuysen		<b>03/29</b>	Marget Christison
<b>03/16</b>	Leda Tangen		<b>03/30</b>	Khloe Peter
<b>03/17</b>	Gary Melbostad			Ava Steele
	Gary Tesmer			

## Anniversaries

<b>03/15</b>	Allen & Dawn Breuer
<b>03/23</b>	Ron & Betty Fahrenz
<b>03/26</b>	Jim & June Barnick
<b>03/30</b>	Dick & Kay Rasmussen

\*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 = 4ever***

**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:

**N**otice the needs of our congregation, community, and world with eyes of faith.

**E**ducate all from cradle to grave.

**W**orship in thankfulness and joy.

**V**alue all generations in passing on the faith.

**I**dentify and affirm the gifts of God's people.

**E**nergize God's people to use their gifts for ministry.

**W**elcome the opportunity to walk the talk with our youth.

**The submission deadline for the April 2016 Newsletter is**

***TUESDAY, MARCH 22.***