

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff



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LENT 2017

**March 1 at 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion**

**Wednesdays in Lent – 7:00 PM
Half hour service of worship
Luther Comes to Good Shepherd**

March 8: The Gift of God's Grace
March 15: What Do You Stand For
March 22: The Bible – Word Alone
March 29: How Do You Find Your Center?
April 5: How Do You Spend Your Time?

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 AND EGG HUNT – APRIL 9

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.**

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PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear partners in ministry,

Have you ever eaten too much? Have you ever spent too much money? Have you ever overdone it by pushing yourself too hard to do too much? Have you ever accumulated too much of something?

While it's often easier to focus on what we don't have, it is helpful to reflect on what we do have and those areas where we sometimes over indulge. There are those times that our lives are over stuffed: over stuffed with material things, over stuffed with the schedule of things to do, over stuffed to the point where there is little or no time or space for what is truly important.

The season of Lent, the 40 days plus the Sundays before Easter, can be a time to un-stuff our lives. The days of Lent encourage us to consciously journey with our Lord Savior. Carving out space and time for God in our lives is a good way to start the un-stuffing process, centering ourselves on what is truly important.

At church we provide ways to help you get unstuffed during the season of Lent. During the Ash Wednesday service of worship with the imposition of ashes we hear the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." These words along with the ashes remind us of our mortality, and the cross that is formed with those ashes on our foreheads reminds us that who we truly are is not about our stuff but is centered on Jesus Christ who through his life, death and resurrection gives to us the gift of new life.

In addition to Ash Wednesday worship, here are some other helpful ways to carve out space and time for God in your life:

- Commit to attending worship more often. Wednesday evening Lenten service are an additional opportunity for worship.
- Add a devotional practice. There are many devotional books and on-line devotions as well. In addition, Lenten devotions for all ages are available in the Gathering Space at church.
- Dig deeper into God's Word. Commit to more Bible reading or join the Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. During Lent we will be looking at what God's Word has to say about money and possessions.
- Take time to pray.
- Give of your time, talents, and treasures to a ministry and/or in a way that helps others.

When we center our lives on God and what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, we un-stuff our lives and experience a deeper and richer life grounded in the peace and love of God.

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

INTERN PASTOR'S NOTE

Grace

"But the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see...the mystery of his divine being." – Romans 1:19 (The Message)

Many people give up things for lent, but I am going to suggest taking something on. Taking something on that will remind us what our focus is. Christ took on the world so that we did not need to live by the law, and let us reflect on the bounty that has been set before us.

I was reminded this past week of the benefits of practicing the art of giving thanks. I think that in our lives, we go about doing what we think we should be doing and we forget why we do what we do. We lose focus and then lose motivation. All because we have forgotten to be thankful for what we have.

I challenge all of you to start a thankfulness journal. Everyday write 5 things that are blessings in your life. Things that maybe you take for granted, yet you enjoy them -- they give life. Write them down. I will do this too.

I know in the beginning it will be hard. It may take you hours to come up with one thing...but as time progresses and this becomes a practice, it will become easier. You will start to look for things in this beautiful world God has created just for us.

"Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!" -- Matthew 6:22 (The Message)

Vicar Nicole

CONGREGATION NEWS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGE DRIVE

Join us on **Sunday, March 5th at 9:00 am in the sanctuary** for the kick-off of our capital campaign pledge drive: **Growing to Serve, Grounded in Faith!** The Capital Campaign Committee will share the vision and the opportunity for all of us to make a statement about what we believe, what we hope for and what we are building and working toward. We are excited to be at this point in time and ready to share God's campaign!! **We will also hold an evening session this same day, March 5th, from 6:30 – 7:00 pm in the sanctuary** if you are not able to attend the 9:00 am time.

LENTEN SEASON BEGINS MARCH 1

Lent begins March 1. 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. **Our Wednesday evening 7:00 pm worship** will include visits from Martin Luther. Just as Luther lived in changing times, so do we. Lenten worship will have us thinking back and forward in faith.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Outgoing Council Members

On behalf of the Good Shepherd congregation, we want to thank our outgoing council members Sibyl Mason and Dan Bethke 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 Dawn Breuer and Jake Thompson! Thank you for your commitment to your church family!

Current Church Council Members and Positions

Tina Wangen	President	wangen.tina@mayo.edu
Jake Thompson	Vice President	m007395@gmail.com
Cindy Fuerstneau	Secretary	cyfuerstneau@msn.com
Tom Anderson	Treasurer & Finance	tom.plainviewfbm@embarqmail.com
Dawn Breuer	Congregational Life/Youth	adbreuer@embarqmail.com
Karla Appel	Education	appel.karla@mayo.edu
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Joe Suntken	Property	jsuntken@gmail.com
Steve Tradup	Worship & Music	stradup@hotmail.com
Kory Bigalk	At large member	kbigalk@aol.com
Steve Fenske	At large member	

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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH NEWS

BOOK GROUP IN MARCH

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 church office any time. Discussion will be **Wednesday, March 15th at 6:00 pm**. Note the earlier time because of soup supper and Lenten worship. Grab your soup and come into Carole's office for discussion. Anyone who is interested may join the conversation.

The April book is *If You Leave this Farm* by Amanda Farmer. By a local author, we are excited to read this book. Feel free to jump in on this book. A library book bag will be in church office.

PALM SUNDAY: EDUCATION HOUR EASTER EGG HUNT & BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 9th, a congregational breakfast will be served starting at 8:30 am. Then at 9:30 am, families are invited to experience the Easter story and join in an Easter egg hunt. Bring your own basket if you have one. We do have a few here at church. Palm Sunday worship will be at 8:00 am and 10:30 am as usual.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Summer High School Trip to Boundary Waters July 23-28

This summer the youth are heading to the Boundary Waters for a week to feed their souls in God's creation. There may be room for one more student, so if you are interested, talk to Carole Joyce. Thank you for supporting youth through coffee shop and soup suppers! The youth go as an outreach of Good Shepherd. These are faith experiences that we wouldn't have without your support.

MILESTONES

Baptisms

Blessings to Tianna Rae Henry, who was baptized on February 12, 2017. Tianna is the daughter of Courtney Harrison & Darrell Henry.

Loss of Loved One

Our sympathies go out to Kay Rasmussen and her family for the loss of their husband/father and grandfather, Howard "Dick" Rasmussen, who passed away on Saturday, February 11, 2017.

EDUCATION NEWS

ADULT EDUCATION

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. **Starting, Sunday, March 12th from 9:30 - 10:15 AM** we will explore the topic of **Money, Possessions, Me and God.**

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH, JOIN US IN THE SANCTUARY FOR THE PLEDGE DRIVE KICK OFF.

TOGETHER IN FAITH FOR 4TH GRADERS & PARENTS

Sunday, March 5 & 12 at 9:15 am students and parents will explore the Apostles' Creed together. What do we believe? As always some fun and games are planned as we learn the parts of the creed and what it means. Students will lead the Apostles' Creed at worship on March 19.

AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

Please Note: The Thursday afternoon Bible study will now be the Tuesday afternoon Bible study starting in March. So, please plan on attending this Bible study on **March 21st at 1:00 pm.**

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	4:00 - 6:00 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

EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED ...

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. This year's VBS will be held **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday nights from 6:00 - 7:45 PM.**

Sign up is coming soon.

Contact Erin Bluhm (erinb@bluhmandgrow.com or 876-0141)

Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net or 269-9374) with any questions.



or

Volunteers Needed!

We are currently looking for youth and adult volunteers & superheroes to help with VBS 2017, which will be held June 12-15 from 6:00 - 7:45 PM. If you are interested in helping, please contact Erin Bluhm (erinb@bluhmandgrow.com or 876-0141) or Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net or 269-9374) to sign-up. We will have a planning meeting on March 19 at 11:30 am.

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 - 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 deposit 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 by early to mid-March to guarantee the week you want.

Some Good Shepherd kids are going for all or part of the week of July 16-21. 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.

EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED ...

PLAINVIEW LIBRARY'S ART EXHIBIT AND COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

When Home Won't Let You Stay: The Plainview Library is pleased to announce that it will be hosting "When Home Won't Let You Stay", a poignant photography exhibition about refugees in Minnesota by documentary photographer James A. Bowey. It provides a new perspective on the often hidden lives and compelling experiences of refugees in our communities. The traveling exhibition consists of contemporary color portraits accompanied by first-person stories highlighting the plight and resiliency of refugees who call Minnesota home. The exhibition also includes a unique live community conversation moderated by the photographer to consider the experiences of refugees, and the responses of local communities to needs of displaced people around the world. **The exhibit will be on display at the library during regular hours from February 27 - March 9. The Community Conversation will be Monday, March 6 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.** This project was made possible through the combined efforts of the Plainview Library and the Plainview Area Foundation.

Would you like to go with other Good Shepherd members? If so, **meet at the Library at 6:20 p.m. on Monday, March 6th.** If inspired, we can go to DQ or Kim's after to continue conversation. If you need a ride call the church office and someone will pick you up.

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, other summer opportunities, and photos from recent events!
- Watch Sunday sermons or read devotions to go along with Sunday's Bible readings on the Worship page.

FINANCE NEWS

FINANCE REPORT

For **On-Line Giving**, go to our Web-site: 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 EARTH VILLAGE NEWS

Feed My Sheep Youth (7-12) Retreat: Youth, grades 7-12, have a deep perspective on what being followers of Jesus looks like. This spring we hear our own call when Jesus says to Peter, "Feed My Sheep." The authentic camp staff invite youth to get crazy, while we invite the spirit to guide us **March 31-April 1**. Find out more at goodearthvillage.org/springretreat.

2nd Annual GrandCamp at Good Earth Village - July 5-7: Now is the time to make memories with grandkids! All combinations and ages of grandparents and grandchildren thrive in this two-night summer camp adventure. Summer counselors are ready to mentor, share their faith, and keep up with your energetic loved ones! More information at GoodEarthvillage.org/grandcamp or call (507) 346-2494 to register.

Mini Summer Camp: For packed summer schedules, Good Earth Village has created new half-week programs. These mini-camps make their debut August 6-9 and cover the classic camp programs. Settlers, Pathfinders, Pioneers & Explorers engage grades 2-9. Find more information at <http://goodearthvillage.org/summer> or 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

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.

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.

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.

"40 CANS FOR LENT COMMUNITY WIDE FOOD DRIVE"

During the month of March, the Minnesota Food Share March Campaign gives more cash to the Plainview/Elgin Food Shelf based on larger amounts of donations received during the month of March. This cash buys food for the Food Shelf, the same as our donation will buy food, but at reduced rates for our local food Shelf.

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus will rebate \$100 for every 1,000 pounds of cans of food and \$100 for every \$500 cash donation given to the Plainview/Elgin Food Shelf. All of the \$100's that are rebated by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council will be donated by the local Knights of Columbus Council 1781 to the Plainview/Elgin Back Pack Program. During Lent 2016, the first year of this local program, the Plainview community donated 2,963 pounds of food in 2445 cans, which generated \$200 given to the Plainview/Elgin Back Pack Program. **Let's double these numbers this year!!**

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS

Thanks to all who packed and contributed to the Care Packages sent to our post high school youth. Twenty-two packages and one card were shipped and one package was hand delivered. Each had personalized notes, Valentines, and other goodies. Thanks to Sue Tangen for the Thrivent action team which provided most of the postage.

Did you know that ALL of Good Shepherd's Wednesday evening Lenten offerings go to the PEM 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.

Sunday school students' offering this winter & spring is going to the fund for a new hydraulic lift for the Elgin ambulance. Watch for their artwork as we continue to talk about this offering.

Our February noisy offering brought in approximately \$445, which will be given to the Elgin Ambulance crew for the purchase of a new hydraulic life. Thank you all for your support!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

03/15	Allen & Dawn Breuer
03/23	Ron & Betty Fahrenz
03/26	Jim & June Barnick

*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

**People ignore God
and then blame him for the chaos that results.**

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 April 2017 Newsletter is

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22.