

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff



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

Intern: Vicar Nicole Rockne
Office Hours: Vary
Email: nrockne001@luthersem.edu
Phone: 507-398-7710

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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On November 6th we celebrate All Saints Sunday. On this day we remember all those who have died and now live in the promise of the resurrection to eternal life. We especially remember those who have died this past year by lighting a candle as their name is read during our worship service. At the end of our service, everyone has the opportunity to light a candle in memory of their loved ones.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be hosting the ecumenical Thanksgiving service on **Sunday, November 20th at 6:00 p.m.** **Note that the service will be the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving rather than the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving.**

Everyone is invited to attend this “service of thanksgiving”!

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Believe it or not, Advent is just around the corner! Advent, the season of watching and waiting for our Savior’s birth begins on **Sunday, November 27th.** Devotions will be available for families with children AND for adults. Pick up your copy at the end of the month. Take one home and use it daily to help you reflect on the meaning of Jesus’ birth.

Inside This Issue

- 2 Pastor's Note
- 3 Intern's Note
- 4 Congregational News
- 5 Building for Ministry News
- 6-7 Congregational Life/Youth
- 8 Education
- 9-10 Stewardship
- 10 Finance
- 11 Birthdays and Anniversaries

PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear partners in ministry,

One of my favorite Thanksgiving hymns is "Praise and Thanksgiving," hymn #689. The last two verses read (or sing):

**Father, providing
food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding
teach us to share
one with another,
so that, rejoicing
with us, all others
may know your care.**

**Then will your blessing
reach every people,
each one confessing
your gracious hand.
When you are reigning,
no one will hunger:
your love sustaining
showers the land.**

For God, giving is a way of life, and God gives over and over and over. In the book of James we read, "All good giving and every perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17). In other words, every gift, all that we have comes from God. The sunshine and rain, the food on our tables, the work that we do, our family and our friends, and all of our gifts, treasures, and abilities are gifts from God. God truly blesses us with an abundance of riches, including the gifts of God's love, grace, and forgiveness.

Here at Good Shepherd, giving and sharing what God has given to us has become a part of our way of life. Every month we receive a noisy offering for another ministry. Last month we assembled Lutheran World Relief Kits. We're continuing to gather boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This month is our 7th annual Chili Supper with the proceeds going to support the local food shelf. Even through our giving, God is blessing us and blessing others.

Thank you for your generosity with God's gracious gifts! Thank you for the blessing you are in this world!

In thanksgiving for all of God's gifts,

Pastor Krista

INTERN'S NOTE

Let the journey begin.

*We start an adventure you and I,
and I hope that by the end we are no longer thought of as "you" and "I"
but as US.*

I look forward to starting this journey with you, good and gracious people of Good Shepherd Lutheran. I feel like the apostle Paul when I say, "I give thanks to God daily for you." The journey to Good Shepherd for me has been long, with many twists and turns along the way. The opposite, I understand it has been for you. Instead your journey has been rather short. A journey you did not even know you were going to partake in. This is one of many reasons why I give thanks to God for you, for you are people of great faith to take such a leap. You are people of great wisdom, or so I have been told, and have so much to teach me. You have wide arms open that welcome me into your midst without knowing much about me. It is for that reason I give thanks for you.

I am an energetic person and certainly qualify as an extrovert. When we meet, I hope to remember your name, but know that you may have to tell me again the next time. Here is some other information about me you may or may not know. I live in Zumbrota and I am married with three kids and a dog. My husband Matthew is from Zumbrota and he runs a family business that has been in his family for four generations. My oldest daughter, Abigail, is 10 and she is an animal lover. Her Girl Scout leader calls her an animal whisperer. Our middle child Olivia is 8 and is into all things girly and gravitates to helping me cook. My youngest son Max is 6 and has an obsession for army tanks (you will never guess what he is going to be for Halloween). We have a golden Lab named Casey who is 10 years old, and I believe her favorite past time is going on runs with me. My dog will probably never get here, but the rest of my clan will show up occasionally, otherwise they will be worshiping primarily in Zumbrota. I guess that leaves me and I like to run, read, knit, and consignment shop. However, spending time with family and friends hold my favorite past-time.

We have not sat down and hammered out all the details, but some things I know. It is a part-time internship for 2 years. I am planning on being here Wednesdays, and most Sunday's and then attend the occasional evening meetings along with other odds and ends. When I am here I would love to connect with you over lunch or coffee/tea so please feel free to give me a call to arrange some time to get together. I am looking forward to our time together and what God has in store for us.
Blessings to all.

Vicar Nicole
Email: nrockne001@luthersem.edu
Cell: 507-398-7710

A Blessing from John O'Donohue
On Meeting A Stranger
With respect
And reverence
That the unknown
Between us
Might flower
Into discover
And lead us
Beyond
The familiar field
Blind with weed
Of weariness
And the old walls
Of habit

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

BUILDING RENOVATION AND EXPANSION UPDATE - NOV. 2016

In September the Council met with architect David Kane. New design plans are now on display in the Gathering Space for everyone to see.

During September and October's council meeting, Council discussed the General Contractor position. While Knutson was originally awarded this position over three years ago, Knutson graciously released Good Shepherd from this commitment. This provided the Council with the opportunity to review the advantages and disadvantages of going with Knutson, while also inviting KBS to make a presentation to the Council at the October council meeting.

Following the KBS presentation and further discussion, the Council decided to choose to work with KBS. This decision now allows the architect and KBS to talk in order to be able to move forward on design plans and towards getting an estimate of cost. Unlike the process of building a house, a general contractor is needed to work with the architect in finalizing design plans and then biddable plans. Consequently there is no cost estimate available until after the architect and general contractor have worked together. At this time, we are now waiting for David Kane and KBS to come back to us with more finalized design plans.

Based on the time frame given us, it is our hope to have these plans and cost estimates in January for the congregation.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

New Members

Welcome to the following new members who were received into the Good Shepherd family on Sunday, October 9th: Matt, Sara, and Raelee Dick; Jesse, Meredith, Gracelyn, Addison, and Parker Grant; Seth, Kim, Jayden, Kadence, and Reid Ihrke; and Tim and Tammy Zabel.

THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for the Pastor's Appreciation Recognition. What a wonderful surprise! I am truly blessed that God has called me here to this place! You are a blessing to me and to my family.

Pastor Krista

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY NEWS

Thank you for your exceptional support!

In 2014, we launched a capital appeal called “Building for Ministry.” Our goal was to support Good Shepherd’s efforts to plan, repair and build for the future. We received exceptional support from the congregation and engaged in many productive conversations to refine our growth and expansion plans.

With the funds received to date, we have been able to purchase a new furnace, repair windows in the sanctuary and build hard walls to create two classrooms. The classrooms have created a much safer environment for our Sunday School students, reduced noise and distraction and made it much easier for the teachers to share messages of faith. With your support, we have also been able to create new design plans for remodeling. The new plans ensure we will meet our needs for the future, while being cost-conscious and efficient.

We greatly appreciate the support we received for our “Building for Ministry” campaign from March 1, 2014 through February 28, 2017. Thank you to all who contributed time, talent and resources. We look forward to wrapping up the campaign, celebrating all we achieved in the past three years and continuing the conversation about growth to support our mission.

The Campaign Planning Team

Nicole Engler

Shelley Henry

Nathan Pfeilsticker

Franny Schwantz

Tina Wangen

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

MILESTONE BLANKET WORK DAY

Join us for a day of service, fellowship, laughter, and food as we make milestone blankets for graduates and baptisms. **Friday, November 11th we will work from 8:00 a.m. until noon** with a break for soup and bread. Whether you have sewing experience or not, there will be something you can do to help. Come join us.

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

The Book Group will meet on **Wednesday, November 16th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** at Good Shepherd to discuss *The Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult. You can pick up library books at the October meeting or in the church office any time afterwards. Check the book out and return it at the meeting.

The December book is **Me Before You* by JoJo Moyes. We will have a book bag.

COOKIE WALK: DECEMBER 3RD (7:30 – 11:00 A.M.)

COOKIES, COOKIES, AND MORE COOKIES!!

Do you know what you plan on baking for the cookie walk? If not, start planning now, as it is only about a month away.

We ask each family to donate between 12-15 dozen Christmas cookies. They can all be of one recipe or a variety of recipes. **Please concentrate on cookies.** Breads, candies, fudge and other treats don't seem to sell as well as cookies; however, we won't turn any of these items away.

We ask that the cookies come on nice platters or decorative boxes (this helps in the cleanup). Also, please write the name of your cookies (or list flavors) so the buyers know what kind of cookies they are. Also, if they have nuts in them, please list what kind (walnuts, pecans, etc).

We need the cookies delivered between 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening, December 2nd so we can have them all placed on the tables and ready to go by 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The doors don't open until 7:30 a.m., but it seems like every year we have buyers waiting at the door by 7:00 a.m.

We also need a lot of helpers for this event. It is a very short time commitment and it is actually very fun. Youth (4th grade and up) are encouraged to help. We need helpers on Friday night and Saturday morning. Contact Franny Schwantz (876-2253 or frannyschwantz@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED ...

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Upcoming Youth Schedule: Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

November 2:	Help at Chili Cook-Off – come at 5:00 p.m. or when you can.
November 9:	Learning night – topic to be announced
November 16:	Work on fleece blankets & set up for coffee shop
November 20:	Coffee shop!!
November 23	No Youth Group – Thanksgiving
November 30:	Bowling night
December 7:	Learning night

This year our Youth Group has scheduled “Learning nights” throughout the year. We would love to have guest speakers with topic knowledge who could join us. The topics our youth have expressed interest in are as follows:

Racism – Rachael Anderson, speaker
Migrant workers – Jeanne Dunn, speaker
Human Trafficking
Creation / Evolution
Heaven & Hell
Feed my Starving Children – where does the food go?

We were blessed to have Rachael Anderson come and tell us about her experiences with racism. It opened conversations about how we can be more in tune with those around us and how we can make a difference to make our world a better place. Thank you so much Rachael for sharing your experiences!

If you have an interest in joining our Youth Group to lead one of the topics above, we would love to have you. Please contact Karen Jurgenson, karenjurg@gmail.com, 534-6543.

Coffee Shop will be Starting in November!

For many years Good Shepherd’s Youth Group has hosted a coffee shop fundraiser every third Sunday of the month. This year they are again planning to do this fundraiser. The first coffee shop will be on **Sunday, November 20th**.

Coffee Shop is more than a fundraiser...

- It gives our youth a chance to work with each other and interact with the congregation on a regular basis...
- It give our congregation a chance to show support to the youth ...
- It gives our congregation a reason to sit around between services on the third Sunday and share stories, a wonderful fellowship opportunity!

Please plan to come between services, grab a cinnamon roll and a fancy flavored coffee or hot chocolate and support our youth. We look forward to seeing you!

Mark your calendars now!

November 20th December 18th January 15th February 19th March 19th April 16th

EDUCATION

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASSES (9:30 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.)

This fall's adult education class on Sunday morning has been studying the Religion of Islam and comparing it to Christianity. In our time together we have talked about the demographics of Islam, the history of Islam and the prophet Muhammad, the Five Pillars of Islam, What the Quran Says about Jesus, and some of the commonalities between Muslims, Jews and Christians. In November we will continue the study with the following topics:

November 6	Islam and Charity
November 13	What does Islam teach about Violence?
November 20	Islam and Finance
November 27	What is an Islamic State?

Join us on Sunday mornings in the youth room during the education hour. **We start at 9:30 am and conclude around 10:15 am.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE (9:15 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.)

November: The regular Sunday school schedule/Christmas pageant practice will take place during the entire month.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Mark your calendar now for the Sunday school Christmas program. It will be presented at the **10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 18th**. You won't want to miss hearing the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of the animals as told by our Sunday school children!

7TH & 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

There will be NO confirmation class on Wednesday, November 25th, the day before Thanksgiving.

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE 2017

It's that time of year again! I know how most of you feel and I can empathize with the young families, my wife and I have been there.

What are we supposed to give? Why do we need to give? How much? Why do they need this? Where does this money go? Who can we talk to? These are all questions, among others, that we asked ourselves way back when our kids were of the 'Sunday School age'. We struggled from time to time to make ends meet and putting a few dollars in the plate on Sundays was always a challenge.

As the Stewardship Chair, I would like to address these questions as we begin our drive for pledges for the 2017 year. Generosity is a gift, but sometimes it can be scary. We want to help, we want to give, however, concern if we are giving enough or often enough or do we need to give at all often enters our minds.

It can be awkward and uncomfortable, I understand. I am asking you, our members, for your help, for a financial commitment to your church...now that's uncomfortable for me to ask! But that is the truth, it is the reality...We, Good Shepherd, need your financial help, as well as your talents to make this whole thing we call "Church" operate and grow.

I mentioned several years ago when my children were little, we struggled to put money in the plate. At that time we did not have Simply Giving or the online option to give. But as we grew with the church and understood why a commitment from us was needed, we got involved with the Simply Giving option. With this option working for us, we were able to lock into one figure and give it every week, even when we were not in attendance! Regardless of the size of our donation, it was a Great feeling to know we were giving every week. It strengthened our relationship with God and Good Shepherd.

The truth is, We Need Your Help, Your Commitment. As you all may have noticed, we have plans to expand our Church and that is going to take a huge commitment from all of us as members. But aside from the big plans for the building, we do so much more at Good Shepherd. We give to so many organizations, groups, and people in need and in the end, that is what Generosity is all about...helping those in need. The places we helped out this year were: Brighter Tomorrows, Lutheran Social Services, Plainview/Elgin Food Shelf – 4 times a year (our Lenten services and Advent services offerings also go here), Good Earth Village, Wabasha County Youth Mentor Program, Lutheran Campus Center in Winona, The Sandwich Man, and the Blue Star Mothers.

Proverbs 11:24: 'One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want'

I'm asking all of our members and families to put some serious thought into what you can give. Please talk and pray on it and take a look at the Good Shepherd website and consider the online giving option or Simply Giving. Consistent giving, no matter what the amount, would make a huge impact for our Church and our future.

Great things are in the works for all of us here at Good Shepherd and God is calling on us to make it possible. You are all in my prayers. God Bless all of you!

Todd Rau, Stewardship Chair

STEWARDSHIP CONTINUED ...

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Thank you for your generosity in providing items for the LWR personal care kits! On October 23rd we packed 57 kits which will be sent around the world to those experiencing disaster due to hurricane, earthquake, floods, and war.

Many hands worked to tie 10 blankets which will go to MN Hands and Voices. This organization serves families as they care for their babies who are deaf and hard of hearing.

We also colored 27 pictures for children at Mission of the Good Shepherd in Beliez, Central America. We send the artwork along with our prayers for these children whose lives face many challenges.

Through our October noisy offering, a check for \$184.90 was sent to The Sandwich Man.

NOVEMBER NOISY OFFERING

Our November noisy offering will go to help support The Minnesota Blue Star Mothers. This group is made up of mothers who have children serving in the military, guard or reserves, or children who are honorably discharged veterans. They are a non-profit 501(c) 3 service organization supporting each other and their children while promoting patriotism. With Veterans Day being in November, we thought this would be a good month to show our support to these Blue Star Mothers. If you are interested in seeing more information on the Blue Star Mothers, Tami Sawyer has left some brochures in the office. Please feel free to take one and read.

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 ---- Oct 1, 2016

General Account	\$ 15,815	(Lowest balance since Feb 2014) Single Month reduction of \$6002
Restricted Accounts	\$ 14,306	(w/o Bldg. Fund)
Building Fund Account	\$ 158,347	
Loan Receivable	\$ 5,464	
Total Short Term Assets	\$ 193,932	
Fixed Assets	\$ 900,308	
Total Assets	\$1,094,240	

Mortgage Balance	\$ 62,630	
Equity	\$1,031,610	

Check Book Trends (General Fund)

Jan \$ 36,187	Apr \$ 28,570	July \$ 27,843
Feb \$ 32,344	May \$ 25,360	Aug \$ 21,817
Mar \$ 31,673	June \$ 26,382	Sept \$ 15,815

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

11/01	Addy Kobler	11/09	Donna Tesch
11/03	Dillon Beck		Addison Nesler
11/04	Teresa Kreofsky	11/11	Barb Petit
	Tommy Weinrich		Rose Wolf
11/05	Andrea Getschmann		Wyatt Frederick
11/06	Gregg Luebke	11/14	Sabrina Frederick
	Tracy Hutchison	11/16	Mariah Henry
	Pastor Krista	11/19	Kenny Hutchison
11/07	Anden Deyo		Desirae Wehrs
	John Potter	11/20	Autumn Deyo
11/08	Isabel Appel	11/21	Clark Olstad
	Jack Johnson		Alice Henderson
	Jake Johnson	11/25	George Back
	Carter Weinrich	11/27	Jill Kobler

Anniversaries

11/28	Kevin & Cindy Fuerstneau
--------------	--------------------------

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thanks and giving go together!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

PO Box 355
Plainview, MN 55964

Address Service Requested
Issue 200, 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 December 2016 Newsletter is

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22.