

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff

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GOOD SHEPHERD'S 7th ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 2nd, 2016

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is hosting our 7th Annual Chili/Chicken Noodle Soup Cook Off & Silent Auction fundraising event. We are excited to announce that we will be adding Homemade Chicken Noodle soup to the cook off! This event will be held in the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, November 2nd, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** This is a community event, so anyone from the community is encouraged to make their special homemade chili or chicken noodle soup and join us for this fun event. Please invite family and friends to join us.

Watch for future emails. We will be using our Excel spreadsheet to sign up for bringing Chili and/or Chicken Noodle Soup, as well as crackers, cheese, sour cream, milk and desserts. Every year the proceeds from the cook off go to the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf. Please contact Sibyl Mason if you have any questions. Sibyl can be reached at: **sibylm12@gmail.com or (651)764-0194**

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are currently accepting silent auction items. Donations can be products, services, gift certificates or gift basket items. Your donated items can be brought to the church any time you have them. The proceeds from the Silent Auction go to Good Shepherd's building fund. Please contact Kory Bigalk if you have any questions. Kory can be reached at: **kgbigalk@gmail.com or (507)251-0983.**

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for a great start to the fall on Sunday, September 11th, Ebenezer Sunday. During worship we lifted up our thanks to God for God's work in our lives; we remembered and gave thanks for all the first responders, EMTs, fire fighters, and police officers who serve our community; and we heard from some members of our congregation who shared their personal thanks and praise to God. Following worship we enjoyed a delicious meal together outside. Thank you to all our cooks and everyone who helped with set up and tear down. We are truly blessed!

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PASTOR'S NOTE

In a recent sermon, I shared the following:

Approached by a group of young people who wanted to know what it meant to be a Catholic, Archbishop Rembert Weakland replied:

“Go to mass every Sunday, and work in a soup kitchen every week for six months. Then you’ll know what it means to be a Catholic.”

He told these young people to commit themselves to a regular discipline, sticking to it whether they felt like it or not. He invited them to immerse themselves in those God-shaped and God-shaping activities that were central to the faith. This is how they would know what it meant to be a Catholic.

The above quote touches on how the process of **belonging** leads to **behaving** which then leads to **believing**.

A number of years ago, at a wedding, I ended up talking to a parent (not a member of the congregation I was serving) who thanked me for the nice service and proceeded to explain how he was going to let his daughter (ten at the time, I think) choose her own religion. When I asked how he was helping his daughter to do that, he proceeded to tell me about what he was not doing. Essentially, he was not exposing her to any religion. My heart went out to this young girl, because faith doesn't happen in a vacuum. None of us, one day, all on our own, wake up and decide “this is what I'm going to believe.”

Faith comes from belonging to a community, and that in turn leads to certain behaviors, and from those behaviors faith develops. Many of the children and youth ministries here at Good Shepherd incorporate this type of process. Recently 3rd grade students who are part of our faith community each received a Bible. The next weeks they came together and practiced opening up the Bible, reading from the Bible and finding Bible passages. This practice of Bible reading will continue through their time in Sunday School.

The 7th and 8th grade students belonging to our faith community have started confirmation. Each week they gather together as part of the faith community and also members of a confirmation small group. As a result of being part of the confirmation faith community, certain behaviors are asked of these young people. They are asked to attend classes, go to worship, and participate in service projects. After doing these things for two years, they are invited to publicly affirm their baptism, sharing with the congregation “this is what I believe.”

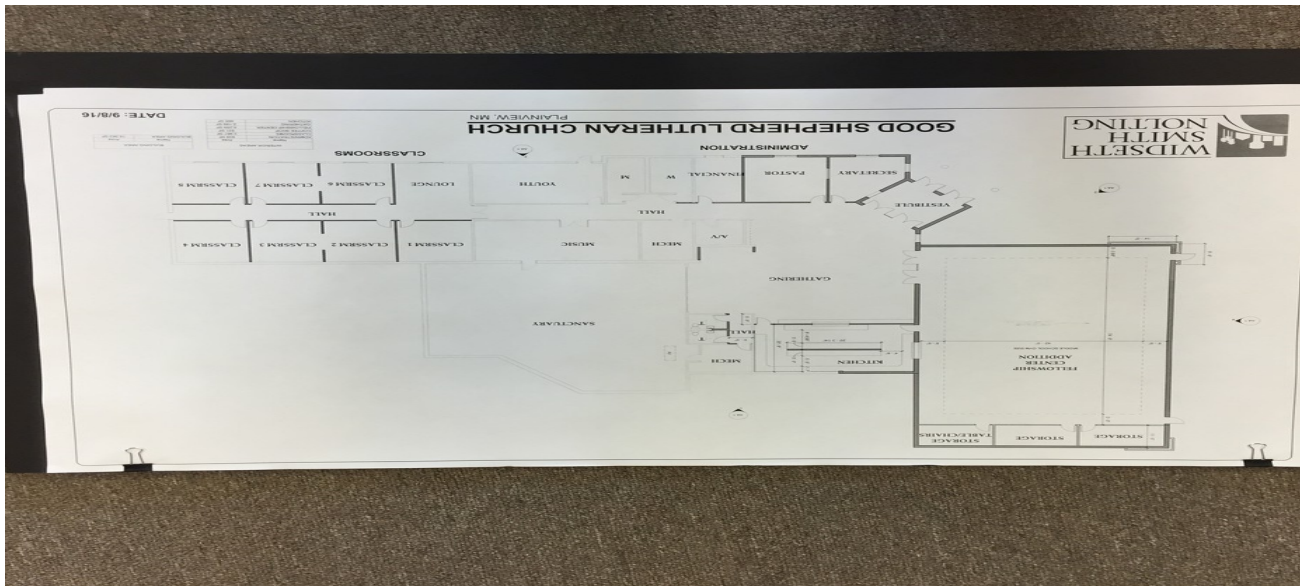
Regardless of age, all of us need to be a part of a faith community (belonging); we need to participate in the activities of the faith community where God is calling us and/or where God has given us gifts to participate (behaving), and through all of this we are strengthened in our faith (believing).

In Christ,
Pastor Krista

CONGREGATION NEWS

UPDATE ON RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PLANS

Architect David Kane met with the Council in September and presented a first draft of a design plan incorporating the recommendations that came from the congregation and were reviewed by the Exploratory Committee and the Church Council. The following is the first draft of the design plan:

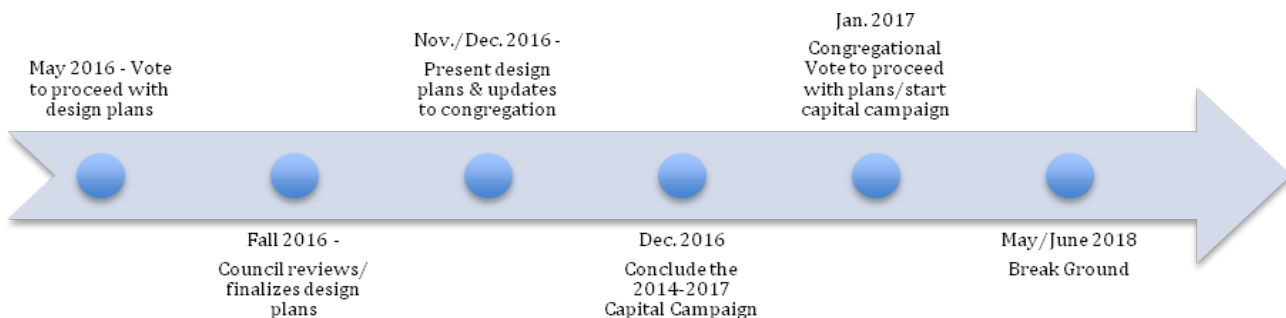


A larger drawing of the design plan can be found on a tripod at the church entrance.

As indicated in the design drawing, the A/V equipment area has been removed from the sanctuary, the square footage of the kitchen has increased, an extraneous hallway into the offices has been eliminated for better flow, and the storage area in the Fellowship Center has been moved to the far side to provide for better flow from the Gathering Space into the Fellowship Center.

The next steps in this process include making a decision on a general contractor. Once a general contractor is selected, the design plan will be reviewed once again for any changes and initial building decisions regarding materials, etc. will need to be made. All of this will lead us closer to getting estimates on cost.

The Council continues to work with following timeline:



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK GROUP

You are invited to Good Shepherd's Book Group. We will meet on **October 19th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** to discuss *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett. Copies are still available in the church office if you would like to get in on the fun. Check the book out now and return it at the meeting.

The November 16th book is *Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult. You can pick up library books at the October meeting or in the office afterwards.

ROAD TRIP TO LUTHER SEMINARY: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

Let's take a road trip to St. Paul to see Luther Seminary—the ELCA's largest seminary. We will check out the historical Old Muskego church, peek at the rare book collection, and then attend chapel with the students and faculty.

Lutheran Social Services of MN is in the neighborhood too, so we will stop to learn about our heritage of caring for those in need. You would be surprised at all LSS does in SE MN! We will leave Good Shepherd at 8:00 a.m. We will have lunch at one of the fun restaurants in the neighborhood before heading home. I promise we will be back long before the home football game that night! Contact Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net or 269-9374 to ride along.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY – (GRADES 9-12)

High school students will meet weekly at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings starting October 5th**. We will talk about faith and life, plan activities, participate in service, and grow in faith together. All are welcome! Watch your emails for monthly group activities. Remember -- friends are always welcome to come too!

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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

Bob and Sue Tangen and their family for the loss of Bob's father, Orville Tangen. Orville passed away on Sunday, September 18th.

Dave and Carole Joyce and their family for the loss of Dave's father, Jim Joyce, who passed away on Wednesday, September 14th.

THANK YOU

"My family would like to thank everyone at Good Shepherd for their prayers and concern shown during the time of my son's (Ron) accident. His rate of progress was slow, but presently he is working and doing OK. Thank You!" Dale Speer

EDUCATION

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION:

During the month of October the Adult Education class on Sunday mornings will meet between services in the Youth Room. We will continue our study on the Religion of Islam.

The religion of Islam is one of the largest religions in the world, with over 1 billion followers. Followers of Islam are called Muslims. The Arabic word 'islam' means 'submission' reflecting the religion's understanding that its followers are to submit to the will of God. 'Muslim' means 'anyone or anything that surrenders itself to the true will of God.'

In our time together, we will study the history and central beliefs in the Religion of Islam, along with comparing the religion to Christianity. Come and join us on Sunday mornings!

7TH & 8TH GRADE 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.

MILESTONE LEARNING FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Sunday, October 9th: Playing with Fire for 5th-6th Graders

These students are old enough to be worship leaders and we will explore ways for them to get involved at 9:15 a.m. Parents come too. We are never too old to learn about worship!

Sunday, October 16: 6th Graders Learn about Luther

From 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., learn about Martin Luther. Who is this guy? Why do we call ourselves Lutherans? Movie clips and worms will spice up the event.

YOUTH BLAST FOR 3RD – 6TH GRADERS NOVEMBER 4TH – 5TH

Come to this fun introduction to overnight camp at Good Earth Village.

Youth Blasts are fun and energy-filled retreats, staffed by our summer counselors, where youth have the opportunity to go on hikes, play games, make crafts, and trek deeper into faith with their small groups.

It costs \$55 and runs from 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 4th through closing worship at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 5th. Carole Joyce is excited to drive a group of kids from Good Shepherd. Register at <http://goodearthvillage.org/youth-blast/>. These often fill up, so sign up ASAP!

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 ---- SEPT 1, 2016

General Account	\$ 21,817 (Lowest balance since Feb 2014)
Restricted Accounts	\$ 10,511 (w/o Bldg. Fund)
Building Fund Account	\$ 158,110
Loan Receivable	\$ 5,770
Total Short Term Assets	\$ 296,208
Fixed Assets	\$ 900,308
Total Assets	\$1,096,515

Mortgage Balance	\$ 65,647
Equity	\$ 1,030,868

PASSING ON FAITH

Whew! Lots of Passing on Faith Ministry is happening at Good Shepherd!

- Sunday school is up and running with 14 awesome teachers and helpers.
- Three year olds and third graders received Bibles and are learning how to use them.
- Parents and 7th/8th graders have kicked off Confirmation and 5 awesome adult mentors are joining us every week.
- High school students and parents met to brainstorm fun, service, and learning activities for the year.

ALL TOGETHER

The church is one of the few places where all ages join together. School, sports, and community activities usually divide us into age appropriate groups. Church is one place where children can learn the wisdom of the elders and elders can learn from the insights of children/youth. One of the blessings of Good Shepherd is the commitment to intergenerational connections. That is why Pastor Krista and Carole Joyce will be attending a conference on Cross-Generational ministry October 3rd – 6th. The following is the theme Bible verse for the event:

*“We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and God's might, and the wonders that God has done... that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God...” –
Psalm 78:4-5*

When was the last time you had a meaningful conversation with someone significantly younger than you? With someone older than you? How were you/they blessed by that time together? We need each other to keep our hope in God! Watch for the opportunities to tell stories of the glorious deeds of God across generations here at Good Shepherd. Hint: one of those is listed below!

PASSING ON FAITH CONTINUED ...

TOGETHER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY OCTOBER 23RD

The whole congregation (Sunday school kids, youth, and adults) will join together during the education hour on Sunday, October 23rd to do service projects

1. Pack personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits will go around the world to where people are suffering from natural disaster or violence. See article below for the list of what we need. A collection box is located in the narthex.
2. Tie fleece blankets for babies who are deaf or hard of hearing in SE MN.

Want to help coordinate a station? Contact Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net

HOPE THROUGH SOAP!

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

Personal Care Kits are shared with people who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence. Give hope through a bar of soap. Put any items from the list below in the box in the narthex.

**WE WILL SORT AND PACK THESE ON OCTOBER 23RD DURING THE EDUCATION HOUR.
Your hands and help are needed!**

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE** adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
- ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

** Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap*

**Most needed items are: Light weight bath towels
Soap
Toothbrushes**

WORSHIP & MUSIC

HELP WANTED - WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Many of our worship assistant groups are getting pretty small. It takes a large number of people to do a Sunday morning worship service (approximately 20 worship assistants per service on a communion Sunday). These jobs aren't hard and training will be provided, so please consider signing up for an area (or two or three) that you have an interest in. Our schedulers for each group will work with you to accommodate the time and date of the services you would be willing to help out with. Just let them know which dates will or will not work for you and which service you prefer to help out with and they will schedule you accordingly.

Communion Assistants: Co-leaders are Tina Wangen (early service) & LaVonne Beck (late service) (We are looking for a new scheduler for the late service assistants.)

Responsible for preparing and serving communion, as well as bringing communion bread and taking care of clean-up. **We are in desperate need of more volunteers for the 10:30 service and several more would be nice for the 8:00 service.** Families with youth who have taken communion training are encouraged to serve together. If you are interested, someone will meet with you prior to serving for the first time to answer any questions.

Ushers: Co-leaders are Arlo & Penny Simonson (early service) and Jeff Henry (late service)

Responsible for assisting the congregation in preparing for worship on Sunday morning: handing out bulletins, collecting offering, answering questions, directing as needed, and cleaning-up after the service. **We are in need of more ushers and especially lead ushers for the 10:30 service.** Families and individuals are encouraged welcome to serve. Adults will act as lead ushers.

Fellowship Treats: Kelsey Rahman

If you love to bake, please consider sharing some of your goodies with the congregation! Treats can be homemade or purchased. **Kelsey would love to add a few more to her list of volunteers.**

Greeters: Co-leaders are Jackie Arens (early service) and Karen Anderson (late service)

Share the gift of hospitality and help others feel welcomed as they come to worship each week. Greeters are also vital in directing visitors and newer members. We have a great group of greeters, but would always welcome more.

Offering Counter: Co-leaders are Lynn Eversman (early service) and Jeff Henry (late service)

If you like numbers and working behind the scenes, consider joining the team of people who count each week's offering. Anyone 18 years and older is welcome to help in this area. **We are in need of a few more counters for both services.** Training is provided.

Acolytes: Lyna Koepsell

Youth in grades 5-8 are responsible for lighting the candles on the alter area, the Christ candle, and assisting with communion. **We are in need of more acolytes.** Training will be provided.

WORSHIP & MUSIC CONTINUED ...

Coffee Fellowship: Donna Tesch

Prepare and clean up coffee for fellowship hour. More volunteers would be welcome.

Lectors: Cindy Fuerstneau

If you enjoy leading the congregation by sharing the Bible readings, please consider being a part of this team. Youth and adults who are comfortable reading in front of a group are welcome.

Video: Bob Endres

Help to video our worship services. We are in need of more volunteers, as many who volunteered for us were high school youth who have graduated and gone off to college.

All of these positions are important and it would be great if everyone would get involved in at least one way. Please consider giving of your gifts to enhance the worship experience for all. To get more information or to sign up, see the "Count Me In" form or contact the church office.

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

One of Good Shepherd's traditions is giving our 3 year olds and 3rd graders Bibles as they start Sunday school in the fall. This year, parents of 18 children placed the Bible in their child's hands. Please pray for these children and parents as they read the Bible together.

Sunday school offering this fall will go to the PEM back pack program so students can receive food on the weekends. Later this year Good Shepherd will help pack food for this program.

THANKS to our lawn mowing team, who so diligently keep the Good Shepherd lawn looking nice all spring/summer/fall. Members of the team are: Joe Suntken (head of Property Committee), Jason and Cameron Bluhm, Gregg Luebke and Scott Rohlik, Todd and Christian Wangen, Jeff Henry and Merlin Mielke, Arlo and Penny Simonson, John and Dusty Wehrs, Bob Endres and Nic Crudele, Mark Jurgenson and Jay Schmidt, and Steve and Tami Sawyer. The next time you see any of these people, tell them THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

10/01	Thor Erickson		10/15	Andrea Castle
10/04	Michael Tuxen			Jim Mason
	Troy Munsch		10/16	Brook Schwantz
	Angie LaBare		10/17	June Barnick
	Brady Beckel		10/18	Ainsley Schwantz
10/05	Jim Barnick			Landon Klennert
	Arlo Simonson		10/19	Todd Rau
	Shelley Henry		10/20	Nolan Folkert
10/07	Susan Shanks		10/21	Tyler Niemeyer
	Sarah Niemeyer		10/22	Andy Yust
10/08	Jasmyne Johnson		10/23	Terry Yust
	Brynn Koepsell			Bob Tangen
10/09	Taylor Thompson			Tammy Wehrs
	Levi Schreiber		10/26	Alyce Tidball
10/10	Jacob LaBare		10/27	Anthony Ellinghuysen
10/12	Eric Grover		10/29	Mike Sveen
10/13	Bryce Hanson			Cathe Hanson
10/14	Alex Rahman		10/30	Schuyler Thompson
	Gavin Ihrke		10/31	Jeremy Amos
10/15	John Folkert			Nick Shanks
	Jeff Henry			Torin Erickson

Anniversaries

10/02	Tim & Kelsey Rahman		10/14	Bernie & Michelle Klennert
10/03	Todd & Colene Rau		10/16	Kent & Barb Kingsley
	Steve & Tami Sawyer		10/17	Bob & Susan Shanks
10/04	Adam & Kim Lyons			Mike & Jill Kobler
10/05	Todd & Brook Schwantz		10/18	Bryan & Tracy Goettl
10/06	Kenny & Stacy Hutchison		10/19	Ben & Jen Peter
	Craig & Sara Steele		10/27	Kirk & Lily Bartz
10/07	Jennifer & Nick Matti			Tom & Jackie Welti
10/13	Mark & Karen Jurgenson		10/29	Mike & Tracy Hutchison

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**If you take stock in God,
your portfolio will always be on the rise.**

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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 November 2016 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21.