

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## *The Shepherd's Staff*

August 2016

Issue 197

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### UPCOMING EVENTS!

Although we have a whole month of summer left, the leadership at Good Shepherd is busy making plans for the fall program year. Watch for the many exciting education opportunities this year. Mark your calendars NOW for the following upcoming events!

<b>Blessing of Backpacks</b>	<b>Wed. Aug. 30 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Confirmation Orientation</b> (7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> grade students and parents)	<b>Wed. Sept. 7 6:00 pm</b>
<b>Ebenezer Sunday Worship</b>	<b>Sun. Sept. 11 10:30 am</b>
<b>Ebenezer Meal and Fellowship</b>	<b>Sun. Sept. 11 12:00 pm</b>
<b>Bedtime Bible Stories</b> (for 3-year olds and parents)	<b>Wed. Sept. 14 6:00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday School Teacher Meeting</b>	<b>Wed. Sept. 14 7:00 pm</b>
<b>First Day of Sunday School and Parents Meeting</b>	<b>Sun. Sept. 18 9:15 am</b>
<b>Third Graders Receive Bibles</b>	<b>Sun. Sept. 18 10:30 am</b>
<b>Senior High Youth &amp; Parent Cook-Out</b>	<b>Wed. Sept. 21 6:30 pm</b>

### BLESSING OF BACKPACKS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup>

All children, youth, and college students are invited to bring their back packs to church on **Wednesday, August 30 at 7:00 p.m.** for a "Blessing of the Backpacks". Invite your classmates to join us at Good Shepherd and bring their backpacks for a special back to school blessing.

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### AMAZONSMILE

Remember to use AmazonSmile when you do your shopping!

When you #StartWithaSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Bookmark the link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1323971> and support us every time you shop.

## PASTOR'S NOTE

Life Tree Café is a ministry that seeks to bring people together to talk about different topics and issues that people are facing. One episode of Life Tree Café focused on caregivers and the challenges and blessings of being a caregiver. In this episode a woman shared about her experience of caring for her mother who had dementia. There were many times when the mother didn't even recognize her own daughter. One of the comments that stuck with me was when the daughter explained that her mother was no longer able to enter into her world. The daughter went on to say that now she needed to enter into her mother's world.

Entering another person's world isn't easy, especially if the other person has dementia. However, instead of arguing about what was right and real, this daughter "went with" what her mother was saying and talking about. In the process she found moments of shared joy.

So often we focus on trying to make other people enter into our world. We argue and explain, throw out facts and figures, tell others they are wrong, and go over our side again and again and again. For the most part these efforts never result in changing another person and both parties are left frustrated.

What if we first focused on entering into the other person's world?

God decided to enter into our world in Jesus Christ, and as Jesus walked on this earth, he engaged people as they were, where they were. In this way, he lived out God's grace and love and mercy, so that others experienced God's grace and love and mercy.

When our youth participate in a mission trip, they enter into the world of those they are serving. They physically join with people where they are. Youth listen to the stories of the people they have gone to serve. They share in the experiences of those around them.

When we teach our children, we enter into their world. We realize they do not have the experiences and vocabulary we have, and we find a way to enter their world.

When we care for one another, we enter into the other person's world. Sometimes this literally means going to the other person, whether it's in the hospital, or in their home, or wherever the person may be.

When we enter into another person's world we share God's grace and love and mercy. What if we bring that grace, love, and mercy of God into all the areas of our lives? What if we first seek to enter into the world of those around us?

Sometime in the next month our youth will share with us some of their stories from their mission trip to Chicago and what it was like to enter into someone else's world. I look forward to hearing their stories and would love to hear your stories as well.

In Christ,  
Pastor Krista

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> IS EBENEZER SUNDAY!

(in other words "God is our Stone of Help")

**10:30 a.m. -- One Worship Service of Thanksgiving**

**12:00 p.m. -- Share a meal together on the Front Lawn**

Ebenezer Sunday is a day Good Shepherd has set aside to look back over the past year and remember all the ways God has helped us to grow in our ministry. We have many things to be thankful for and on September 11<sup>th</sup> we will name those things and recognize that our ministry isn't finished yet but we have come this far because the Lord has helped us. Since Ebenezer Sunday falls on September 11<sup>th</sup>, we will also include a special thank you to all who serve as first responders, in law enforcement, and fire departments. Truly these people are God's hands in our world. Join us and invite your family, neighbors, and friends as we raise our "Ebenezer" or "stone of help" and give thanks to God who is our "help" not only in times of trouble but always.

### **Ebenezer Sunday Checklist:**

- ✓ Take time to reflect on what God has done in your life and at Good Shepherd.
- ✓ Bring a stone as a symbol of what God has done for you.
- ✓ Come ready to give thanks to God at the 10:30 a.m. worship!
- ✓ Continue the celebration with a noon meal under the big tent on the front lawn.

## GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK GROUP

Here is a 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.** All are invited!

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOOK TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>
September 21	<i>Eve's Daughters</i>	Lynn Austin
October 19	* <i>State of Wonder</i>	Ann Patchett
November 16	* <i>Plain Truth</i>	Jodi Picoult
December 21	* <i>Me Before You</i>	JoJo Moyes
January 18	* <i>The Rosie Project</i>	Graeme Simsion
February 15	* <i>The Boy from Baby House 10</i>	Alan Philips
March 15 (Lenten time change)	* <i>Let's Pretend this Never Happened</i>	Jenny Lawson
April 19	* <i>If You Leave this Farm</i>	Amanda Farmer
May 17	* <i>A Man Called Ove</i>	Fredrik Backman

\*Library book bag.

## MILESTONES MINISTRY

**Loss of Loved Ones:** Our sympathies go out to Jim Fasching and his family for the loss of Jim's father, Joe Fasching, who passed away on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>.

# EDUCATION

## 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Confirmation Kick-Off will be Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents will gather at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to pass, and a beverage. We will look ahead at our year together.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

It's time to register for Sunday school! We will need **ALL** children to be registered **prior** to attending the first day of class on **Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**. All children who are 3 years old (by September 1<sup>st</sup>) through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to sign up. To help with the scheduling process, we would appreciate **all forms be turned in by August 31<sup>st</sup>**. You can register using one of the following options:

- Register on-line at <http://goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/sunday.html>
- Pick up a registration form in the church narthex.
- Complete a form emailed to parents with a valid email address on file.

**Only one child per form, please.** Thank you for your help as we continue updating our information to help keep our children safe!

New students are always welcome! Give a registration form to a friend or neighbor and invite their children to participate too.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE – YOU ARE NEEDED!

Do you love children and youth? Do you want to learn more about the Bible? Are you willing to wonder about faith in your life? If so, teaching, helping with Sunday school OR mentoring with Confirmation might be just what God is calling you to do. You are invited to be a caring adult in the lives of our children and youth.

The following Sunday school classes need people to help team teach: Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade. **Each class will have more than one teacher so you have flexibility and can be gone or attend adult classes on the other weeks.** High school students who would like to help or teach are welcome too.

We always need Sunday school helpers and substitutes as well. Contact Carole Joyce at 269-9374 or [carole35@charter.net](mailto:carole35@charter.net) or the church office if you have questions or would like to serve. Remember, we may set out to serve, but it is the kids who teach us and help us to grow!

## GOOD EARTH VILLAGE DAY CAMP

Nine children from Good Shepherd attended camp at Good Earth Village this summer. Thank you to the congregation for your financial support for each of these students.

# EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

## BEDTIME BIBLE STORY NIGHT FOR 3-YEAR OLDS AND PARENTS: SEPTEMBER 14 @ 6:00 P.M.

Children who turn 3 by September 1<sup>st</sup> and their parents are invited to get ready for starting Sunday school. **Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** will kick-off the next step in your faith journey with Bedtime Bible story night.

Students are encouraged to come in pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal and “blankie”. We will enjoy a bedtime Bible story and become familiar with your Sunday school classroom, have a treat, and tour the church. (This will prepare the children to begin Sunday school this fall on September 18<sup>th</sup> when activities will begin for parents and children at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.)

All students also will be presented with their own Beginner's Bible that evening. The Beginner's Bible is a wonderful tool for sharing stories of God's love. We encourage you as parents to read Bible stories daily with your child. This can be a great bedtime tradition.

# FINANCE

## FINANCE REPORT

During the summer months with weekend events and family vacations, we know church attendance tends to slip. If you would like to know how to continue contributing, please feel free to contact the church office or

Tom Anderson directly (507-993-8326). 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.

### **Good Shepherd Lutheran Financial Summary Notes ---- July 1, 2016**

General Account	\$ 26,382
Restricted Accounts	\$ 12,205 (w/o Bldg. Fund)
Building Fund Account	\$ 150,741
Loan Receivable	<u>\$ 6,382</u>
<b>Total Short Term Assets</b>	<b>\$ 195,710</b>
Fixed Assets	\$ 900,308
Total Assets	\$1,096,018
*****	
Mortgage Balance	\$ 68,623
<b>Equity</b>	<b>\$1,027,395</b>

# WORSHIP & MUSIC

## GROWING IN FAITH AND PASSING ON THE FAITH! THIRD GRADE BIBLES

During worship on **September 18<sup>th</sup>**, we will celebrate the milestones of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders receiving Bibles from their parents. The Bibles are a gift from Good Shepherd, and are presented by parents to children. This is one step of fulfilling the promises we made at baptism. Third graders and their parents will take part in two special class sessions on September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> to help them get more familiar with their Bibles.

## 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.

# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Now is the time for thinking about our fall service project, Operation Christmas Child, which provides a shoebox full of useful and fun items for a child in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country. Why do we start with this project now? The answer: school supplies! These items are included in the boxes and are on sale starting in July. As you buy school supplies for your own children, please consider buying the following items that are in short supply in our Operation Christmas Child "stores": pencil sharpeners, pointed scissors and crayons. Any items are gladly accepted though, except liquid glue (no liquids allowed). If you have questions, contact Ginny Mielke @ 534-3357.

## SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTIONS

**The School Supply Drive for our PEM Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade kids begins Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>.**

All supplies are welcome, but the following are in the highest demand:

Dry erase markers & dry erase erasers  
Pencil pouches or cases  
Wire bound tablets or Notebooks -- wide & college rule  
Pencils & erasers  
Folders

There will be a box in the narthex in which to put your donations. The drive will run through the last Sunday before the start of school (September 4<sup>th</sup>).

## GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

### Noisy Offerings

Our June noisy offering went to the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf -- \$204.06 was collected.  
Our July noisy offering went to the National Child Safety Council -- \$ 74.75 was collected.

Our August noisy offering will go to Lutheran Campus Center in Winona.

Thank you all for your support to these various non-profit organizations!

### Youth Mission Trip

Poms, Pads, and Purses were brought to Chicago by the youth mission team. Jordyn Anderson organized the publicity about this project. Care items were placed in purses and then given to women experiencing homelessness.

Thanks to Joe Goettl, William Dunn, Gavin Folkert, Kali Jurgenson, Erin & Nicole Bartz, Sage Grover, Jordyn Anderson, Molly Bluhm, Tracy Goettl, John Folkert, and Carole Joyce who learned and served in Chicago from July 24 - 29. They will share their stories at worship in August.

# COMMUNITY

## PLAINVIEW-ELGIN AREA FOOD SHELF

The Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf is in need of some more volunteers – mainly for the 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. shift on Wednesdays. If you would be interested in volunteering for the afternoon shift, contact Darlene Goergen at 876-0112.

## PLAINVIEW COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Plainview Community Choir will start rehearsals on **Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, in the high school choir room at 7:00 p.m.** The concert will be Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. So gather yourself, friends and relatives, and bring the talent to a good choir and share your God given talent with the community. If you have questions, call Jan 507-534-2747.

## BISHOP'S 5K: SEPTEMBER 24

Calling all runners and walkers! Let's join with other Lutherans to stamp out hunger in SE MN.

**When:** September 24 at 9:00 a.m.  
**Where:** Soldier's Field Park in Rochester.  
**Register:** [www.semnsynod.org](http://www.semnsynod.org)

When it comes to ending food insecurity in our region, we can do far more by joining together as a synod than we can do individually. Participating in the upcoming Bishop's 5K in Rochester on September 24<sup>th</sup> is one way we can support our synod's *Enough Food for All* initiative.

Bishop Steven Delzer can't wait! "I get so excited about the opportunity for people to be together to have fun, get some exercise, and raise our awareness about food insecurity." 1 in 10 people in southeastern Minnesota experience food insecurity, and when it comes to children, 1 in 6 experience food insecurity. Food insecurity is not having consistent access to adequate and nutritious food. Together we can change that!

## FERTILIZER PLANT

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council, as representatives of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, will remain neutral regarding the proposed building of a fertilizer plant. However, the Council does retain the right to express concerns regarding the impact proposed plant may have on traffic on gravel road, 275<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which lies adjacent to the church property.

The Council acknowledges that individual members are clearly free to take whatever position they choose regarding issues surrounding the proposed fertilizer plant. Individual members are not authorized to speak and act as if they represent Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, as a whole, or the Church Council.

# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## Birthdays

<b>08/01</b>	Kaitlin Weinrich	<b>08/18</b>	Erika Patzer
	Skylar Beckel	<b>08/19</b>	Betty Fahrenz
	Jane Folkert		Betsy Munsch
	Rachael Grover-Anderson	<b>08/20</b>	Jan Stephenson
	Parker Matti		Max Breuer
<b>08/03</b>	Todd Schwantz	<b>08/21</b>	Linda Tesmer
	Conner Schumacher		Reid Ihrke
	Karen Back	<b>08/23</b>	Garrett Olson
<b>08/04</b>	Stephanie Amos	<b>08/24</b>	Brady Sveen
	Rachel Ferkin	<b>08/25</b>	Jan Nienow
<b>08/06</b>	Kurt Schumacher		Lori Holst
<b>08/07</b>	Barb Peck		Brady Patzer
	Karen Jurgenson	<b>08/27</b>	Al Schwantz
	Christian Dunn		Alyvia Engler
<b>08/08</b>	Elaine Tesmer		Isaac Pfeilsticker
<b>08/10</b>	Joseph Goettl	<b>08/29</b>	Koren Melcher
	Jacob Munsch		Dawn Suntken
<b>08/11</b>	Mary Applen	<b>08/30</b>	Lonnie Yust
	Kadence Ihrke		Bernie Klennert
<b>08/12</b>	Sue Tangen		Hannah Schneider
	Bryan Goettl	<b>08/31</b>	Ted Lehmann
<b>08/13</b>	Calen Kraemer		Luke Ferkin
<b>08/14</b>	Parker Ramthun		Peyton Bigalk

## Anniversaries

<b>08/01</b>	Jason & Kristy Folkert	<b>08/22</b>	Merlin & Ginny Mielke
<b>08/05</b>	Don & Jan Fiskum	<b>08/24</b>	Jaime & Sarah Wolf
<b>08/08</b>	Jason & Erika Patzer	<b>08/25</b>	Steve & Peggy Erwin
<b>08/09</b>	Mitchel & Cassie Crary		Don & Deb Weinrich
<b>08/16</b>	Dustin & Becky Wehrs		Paul & Diane Fick
<b>08/17</b>	Todd & Tina Wangen	<b>08/26</b>	Dave & Angie LaBare
	Marc & Koren Melcher	<b>08/27</b>	Lennie & Lori Holst
<b>08/18</b>	Ron & Tammy Peterson	<b>08/29</b>	Joe & Kaitlin Weinrich
<b>08/20</b>	Andy & Brandi Yust		

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

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**Live now! Procrastinate later!**

**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 September 2016 Newsletter is**

***MONDAY, AUGUST 22.***