

The Shepherd's Staff

July 2016

Issue 196

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SENIOR HIGH YOUTH TRIP

Please pray for our Good Shepherd youth and adult leaders, Carole Joyce, John Folkert, and Tracy Goettl, as they travel to serve in Chicago July 24-29 through an organization called CSM (<http://csm.org/>). We will all be transformed as we experience life in the inner city, explore the diverse cultures, and serve the vulnerable. Pray for safety, for God's Spirit to move among us, and for all the people who we will meet on our journey.

Join us for a blessing at the Wednesday, July 20th 7:00 p.m. service with sendoff at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 24th.

BISHOP'S 5K: SEPTEMBER 24

Calling all runners and walkers! Let's join with other Lutherans to stamp out hunger in SE MN on September 24th at 9:00 a.m. at Soldier's Field Park in Rochester. Register at 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 24th is one way you and your congregation 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."

Bishop Delzer wants the people of our synod to understand the seriousness of food insecurity in our region: "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!" Article by Rev. Emily Carson

PASTOR'S NOTE

It's almost time for this summer's youth mission trip! This year high school students and adult leaders will be hitting the road for Chicago. From Sunday evening through Friday morning they will be experiencing and sharing the love of God with the people in Chicago.

I always enter a mission trip with some anxiety, as well as lots of excitement. The anxiety comes from all the unknowns: What will the people be like that the group is serving? Will the youth find this a meaningful experience? What type of work will be assigned to our group? What will the leaders of the mission trip be like? Will there be a lot of traffic or road construction on the drive? Those questions, plus many, many, many more all run through my mind.

The excitement comes in knowing lives are changed on mission trips and remembering that God works in amazing ways that go beyond what we could ever dream or imagine. In fact, it's often because there are so many unknowns that those on a mission come to realize how dependent we are on God for EVERYTHING. As much as we would all like to control all of the nitty-gritty details (and certainly the big picture details as well), we are simply not able to control everything. Sometimes we might be able to fool ourselves into thinking we are in control of the things in our lives, but the reality of the situation is that we are not in control. While that may create some anxiety at times, there is also comfort in knowing that we are not in control, and that God is.

Mission trips have a way of getting us back to the basics and opening our eyes to God at work in the world around us. Along with relying on God and others for the particulars for housing, meals, and the people involved in serving and being served, a mission trip is an opportunity to step away from some of the electronics and instant forms of communication that become so much a part of our daily lives. While serving others, those on the mission trip are asked to refrain from using MP3 players, cell phones and other electronics. Even though it's somewhat of a culture shock to refrain from taking a selfie, checking and posting on instagram, or using snap chat, it can also be refreshing to discover what it's like to be more present to others.

Perhaps getting back to some of the basics and stepping foot in unfamiliar territory helps us look more closely at what's happening around us, thereby helping us to see God's activity around us and in us. Unfortunately, I won't be on this year's trip (my parents' 50th wedding anniversary is during this week and I'll be celebrating with them), but I'm looking forward to hearing all about this year's mission trip and for the opportunity for our youth to share with the congregation. God will be doing some amazing things!

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

Note: Thanks to Cindy Fuerstneau and Carole Joyce for leading worship services while Pastor Krista is on vacation.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

2016-2017 GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK GROUP BOOK SELECTIONS

Here is the 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 3rd Wednesday of the 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 (or a week earlier?)	* <i>A Man Called Ove</i>	Fredrik Backman

*Library book bag.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

Baptism

Blessings to Kenzington Grace Orellana, who was baptized on June 11th. Kenzington is the daughter of Carlos and Brittany Orellana.

Blessings to Clara Rae Paradise, who was baptized on June 19th. Clara is the daughter of Jonathan and Lana Paradise.

Loss of Loved Ones:

Our sympathies go out to Elaine Tesmer for the loss of her aunt, Rae Lindgren, who passed away Tuesday, May 31st.

FAITH ON THE GO

Jesus is with us wherever we go, but in the busyness of life we sometimes forget.

- Bring Sunday's Bible reading with you wherever you go this summer. Sign up to receive "Walking with the Shepherd" devotions via email or Facebook or at <http://walkingwiththeshepherd.com>. The once a week message is easy to read on your cell phone or computer.
- Check out Sunday's sermon at <http://goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/video/>
- Keep sending photos of your family with flat Jesus as you travel this summer (or just hanging around in the neighborhood), Send them to secretary@goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org. It is fun to see Jesus with you wherever you go!

Remember to take part in WOW Worship on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. whenever you can. This informal worship is served up with cold drinks and treats as well as God's Word and prayer.

EDUCATION

2016 VBS: BARNYARD BLESSINGS

Barnyard Blessings was the theme of Vacation Bible School in June. 37 kids, 15 leaders, and parents & grandparents learned about blessings and animals in the Bible through songs, games, skits, and Bible stories. Favorites of the week included...playing in the corn, parachute games, learning Psalm 148, Boom Chick a Boom, lost sheep, cute chickens, yummy snacks, singing about Mrs. McDonald's farm. Everyone's favorite was the visit by RAD zoo of Owatonna, complete with snakes, alligator, soft shell turtle and a giant python!

Thank you to everyone who made it a great week! A special thanks to Erin Bluhm for coordinating VBS! Check out the photo gallery which is on the Facebook page and will be on the website too: <http://goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/>

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE

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 teach or team up: Kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, and 5th-6th grade. Remember, we team people up so you don't have to teach every week (unless you request that).

We can always use Sunday school helpers and substitutes as well. Contact Carole Joyce at 269-9374 or carole35@charter.net 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!

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Ministerial Association is looking for a Release Time Coordinator. This person would report to the Ministerial Association (local pastors). The job would run from mid-August through the completion of Release Time (spring, 2017). **If interested, please contact Pastor Krista.**

Job Summary: To coordinate the release time program between the participating churches and the school administration by recruiting and supporting teachers. (Participating churches are: Community Presbyterian Church, Plainview Church of Christ, Trinity Evangelical Free, Peace United Methodist Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Hilltop Fellowship)

Essential Functions: Connect with school administration to confirm Release Time calendar (start/end date, breaks) and to help facilitate communication with parents and potential participants; connect with congregations to recruit teachers for each of the 3 Release Time classes; support teachers (helping secure curriculum, substitute teachers as needed); ensure that there is enough help and supervision in each class; ensure that there is transportation for the students to get from school to site in both Plainview and Elgin; make sure there is a location and connect with host church(es) regarding any cost.

Core Competencies:

Administration and Organization: Works with the Ministerial Association and the school administration to ensure that Release Time is adequately staffed with volunteer teachers and helpers; has developed a plan for transportation and communication.

Volunteer Support: Provides support to volunteers (helping find substitutes, helping find appropriate materials)

Love of Children: Desires to connect children to the love and grace of Jesus Christ through the Release Time Program.

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Did you know that the ELCA is fighting hunger across the country and around the world through God's Global Barnyard? The ELCA's approach to ministry starts with listening. After our congregations and global companions identify local needs, we partner with them as they develop local solutions. The ELCA has a long-standing, unwavering presence in nearly 90 countries, including the United States. As good stewards of resources, the administrative costs are less than 10 percent – among the lowest of other organizations doing similar work. Read more about this at <https://community.elca.org/elca-good-gifts/how-it-works>

This spring Sunday school students enjoyed voting for which animals their offering would go for. They chose a fish farm, 5 shares of a cow, 1 share of ox/plow, 2 sheep, 2 goats, 5 honey bees, 5 pigs, 5 chicks and 2 roosters.

Vacation Bible School students donated \$97.62 to go to the global barnyard. Thanks to all students and parents who share the gift of hope through their offerings!

JULY NOISY OFFERING

The July noisy offering will go to the National Child Safety Council, so start saving up your change. The noisy offering happens the 2nd Sunday of every month.



Are you familiar with the ministry of Lutheran Social Services? LSS of Minnesota traces its history to 1865 when Vasa Lutheran Church opened its church to care for four children in need. 150 years later LSS continues to express the love of Christ for all people through service that inspires hope, changes lives, and builds community.

In SE MN LSS works with adoption, children needing to find stable homes, opportunities and jobs for people with disabilities, homeless youth, supporting older adults so they can remain at home with transportation and friendship support. Yes, LSS is a local treasure and important in our neighborhood! To find out services offered or to get involved in this ministry go to www.lssmn.org or www.lssmn.org/Services/Services/

One of the most interesting projects of LSS is Camp Noah. This camp travels to communities which have experienced flood, hurricane, tornado, school shootings, and other traumas. Kids come for the week to experience God's love and be empowered to carry on in the face of emergency. Watch for ways to support Camp Noah as a congregation later this year.

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 ---- June 1, 2016

General Account	\$ 25,360
Restricted Accounts	\$ 13,254 (w/o Bldg. Fund)
Building Fund Account	\$ 146,971
Loan Receivable	\$ <u>6,688</u>
Total Short Term Assets	\$ 192,273
Fixed Assets	\$ 900,308
Total Assets	\$1,092,581

Mortgage Balance	\$ 71,585
Equity	\$ 1,020,996

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

07/02	Alexis Deyo		07/17	John Salek
07/03	Cheryl Schneider			Brent Masee
07/04	Dave Haack			Alexis Yust
	Tom Anderson		07/19	Colene Rau
	Jason Bluhm			Gavin Wilhelmson
07/06	Cheryl Endres		07/21	Aiden Engler
07/09	Jayden Ihrke			Collin LeVan
07/10	Karen Anderson		07/22	Chris Henderson
	Penny Simonson		07/23	Eric Hanson
	Gavin Folkert		07/24	Brandi Yust
07/11	Stan Tesch		07/25	Al Ninas
07/12	Sara Steele			Shirley Lehmann
	Scott Folkert			Don Kuschel
	Ellie Kobler			Quintin Wilhelmson
	Marc Melcher		07/26	Paul Appel
07/13	Steve Tradup		07/27	Carole Joyce
	Barbara Gramling			Kali Jurgenson
07/14	Aiden Klennert			Evelyn Pfeilsticker
07/15	Ginny Mielke		07/28	Caraline Crary
	Wayne Wendt		07/29	Todd Wangen
	Brady Beckel			David Rosckes
07/16	Paige Gudmundson		07/30	Nora Henry
07/17	Matthew Hanson			

Anniversaries

07/03	Bob & Cheryl Endres		07/16	Roger & Jackie Arens
	Chris & Alice Henderson		07/18	Pastors Krista & Kris Henning-Ferkin
07/07	Justin & Jennifer Gusa		07/19	Joe & Sandy Ulwelling
07/12	Marty & Sarah Hassig		07/23	Ryan & Brittany King
07/13	Blaine & Misty Biers		07/26	Jeff & Shelley Henry

*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

A pretty face is nothing if you have an ugly heart.

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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 August 2016 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, JULY 22.