

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff



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GOOD SHEPHERD INFORMATIONAL MEETING

On **Sunday, January 21st at 9:15 a.m.**, there will be a Congregational Informational Meeting to discuss the budget and building plans. Please plan on attending.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual **Congregational meeting** will be held on **Sunday, January 28th**. We will start with a potluck meal in the fellowship hall at 11:30 a.m., followed by the meeting at 12:00 noon. Please plan on bringing a dish to pass. We hope you can join us!

ADDRESSES NEEDED FOR POST HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULTS

We would like current addresses for Good Shepherd's post high school youth---those who graduated in the past 4-5 years. We would also like addresses for those in the military. Good Shepherd will be sending out care packages in late January. To get your young adult on this list, please email the church office or Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net.

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PASTOR'S NOTE

With the end of a year and the beginning of a new year, many of us spend some time both looking back and looking forward. At the end of the year it may be natural to assess what we have done, what we have accomplished, what were our successes and what were our failures. We may judge the year based on the goals we have met or the dreams that are unfulfilled.

The start of a new year often represents opportunities and a clean slate where anything is possible. As a result, we may do some dreaming of what we hope will happen in the new year. We may also set us some new goals and embark on some planning to help us meet those goals.

Looking back and looking ahead can even help us let go of what we need to let go of and move toward what will be good for us. Looking back and looking ahead might even be necessary steps in our life journey when it comes to what is healthy for us. However, too much looking back and too much looking ahead leads us to neglect the present.

There are times when it is almost as if we are either living in the past (which is already gone). In these times we are perhaps dwelling on the “good old days” and longing for their return, or we are mulling over everything we could have done and should have done. The reality is, for better or worse, all of that is in the past, and while we can learn from the past, it’s not healthy to live in the past.

The same goes for the future. It’s good to have some goals and dreams and plans, but we can’t put our life on hold waiting for that “some” day to finally arrive.

What we have been given is the gift of the present. This is a gift from God for each one of us. Over focusing on the past or future, costs us the present. Our ELCA national bishop, Elizabeth Eaton recently wrote about driving to work and when she arrived, not being able to remember anything of the drive because she was so absorbed in what was coming up. In other words, she missed out on living in the present. Bishop Eaton then offered these words for meditation and prayer, “Just this. Just now.”

“Just this, just now” have become a prayer for me when I find myself dwelling too much in the past or the future. When I find myself anxious about the future “just this, just now” helps bring me back to the present and how God is with me. When I find myself longing for the days of the past or wishing I could re-do something “just this, just now,” helps me let go of what I cannot change and see the blessings of the present.

As we move into the year of 2018, may we live in the present – “Just this. Just now.”
A gift from God.

God’s blessings,
Pastor Krista

GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

CARE PACKAGE SUNDAY: JANUARY 28TH AT 9:15 AM

Who doesn't like to give or receive a box full of love? Join us on January 28th to share God's love through care packages for Good Shepherd's post high school youth and military. We will work together making Valentines, gorp, and other goodies to include. Sunday school students, parents, youth, and ALL adults are invited to help. You can even add personal notes to as many boxes as you want and we will send them for you.

TREATS FOR VALENTINES CARE PACKAGES

Would you like to donate items like microwave popcorn, hot chocolate packets, fun sized candy, post- its, or other little items our post high school and military might enjoy? Put items in the box in the narthex. Then come help pack on **January 28th at 9:15 am!**

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

WORK DAYS FOR MILESTONE BLANKETS

Spend a cold winter day **Friday, January 5th** with Good Shepherd friends sewing blankets for our graduates and babies! Meet at church for sewing, fellowship, fun, and of course food (warm soup and bread). We will start at 8:00 a.m. and stop sometime in the afternoon. Come when you can and leave when you must. Sewing skills are helpful, but not required. So if you can't sew, come anyway to cut, pin, and most of all have fun. If you have any questions, contact Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net or 269-9374).

BOOK GROUP PARTY AND BOOK FOR JANUARY

The January book is *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee. Please note the Book Group meets the **THIRD Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm (January meeting is the 17th)**.

Our February book is *Orange is the New Black* by Piper Kerman. The book is about a woman's year in the prison system (don't worry it is not racy like the Netflix show) but should make us think. It was recommended by Karen Jurgenson. A library book bag is reserved so pick up books at the January meeting or in the church office afterwards.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY Grades 9-12

National Youth Gathering – June 25th – July 2nd: Good Shepherd will be sending 10 youth and 2 adults to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. We look forward to learning more about the community, serving, hearing amazing speakers, and worshipping together with 30,000 other Lutherans.

Because of the distance we need to travel, this is the most expensive of our summer impact trips. Watch for opportunities to get involved with fundraisers to help our youth learn and grow on this adventure.

High School Learning Night: High School Learning Night is **Wednesday, January 3rd at 7:30 pm**. Pastor Krista is leading the studies around important justice and life issues in our studies this year. All are welcome, including friends.

January Coffee Shop: Thanks to the high school youth, we have flavored coffee, hot chocolate and cinnamon rolls between services once a month. Look for these tasty treats on January 21st. Join us for wonderful fellowship. Thank you to the congregation for your support of high school ministry.

Youth Group Decoration Sale brought in over 500 dollars. Thank you very much to everyone who donated items, set up, priced, and worked the sale, and of course, purchased items. All the funds raised will go for the youth trip to the National Youth Gathering this summer. Thank you for your continued support of our youth!

EDUCATION

JANUARY ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education will meet on Sunday mornings, January 7th and 14th to study the topic: ***The Broken Way: A Daring Path into the Abundant Life*** by Amy Vosskamp. No adult education will take place on January 21st because of the finance meeting in the sanctuary. On January 28th, **join with others in making care packages in the Fellowship Hall.**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM THANK YOU

Thank you to the amazing preschool and elementary Sunday school students (and their teachers and parents) for the wonderful message about Jesus' birth: "The Night Before Christmas". What a gift to have you share the Christmas story in this meaningful way. Thank you to director Pastor Krista and all who learned lines and solos. Thanks to Karen Anderson, Tom Anderson, Lynn Eversman and all the Sunday school teachers for their help. Thank you!

You can share the program with friends and family by going to https://youtu.be/dYWq4_Sf9CE

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Parents & Infants, 2 & 3 Year Olds (not in Sunday School): Sunday, January 7th at 9:15 a.m.

We want to remember your child's baptism in worship on January 7th! Bring your child's baptismal candle if you can find it to whichever service you prefer to attend.

Then we will have a Baptism Beach party during the education hour. Parents and infants/toddlers/ and those too young for Sunday school, come warm up your winter at the baptism party! We will play beach games, remember our baptism, and have time for adults to talk. Break out summer hats and sunglasses for some mid-winter fun!

Second Grade: "What's Fair?" -- January 14th and 21st

We are looking forward to seeing you and your child at the special class for second graders and their parents, "What's Fair?" This will be a time of serious fun, where we will face one of our children's greatest frustrations – that life isn't fair! Discover together how to cope with life's unfairness and learn what God considers the fair facts. We will meet in the 2nd grade classroom from 9:15 –10:15 a.m. on January 14th and 21st.

Looking Ahead to February...

God & Gifts: Sunday, February 4th at 9:15 am

— This class is for all 1st graders and their parents. Mark your calendar now. Watch for more details.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

January 7 – Regular Schedule & Baptism Beach Party (families of children under age 3)

January 14 – Regular Schedule & TIF – 2nd Grade

January 21 – Regular Schedule & TIF – 2nd Grade

January 28 – All Ages – Valentines Day/Care Packages (annual meeting at 11:45 a.m.)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study group meets on **the 1st Tuesday of each month**. So, plan on meeting on **January 2nd at 1:00 p.m.** here at Good Shepherd.

EDUCATION SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who gave input through the survey this fall. A special thanks to Karla Appel for compiling all the responses. The Education Team looked at every comment at their December meeting.

Some things we learned

- We have awesome teachers and overall people feel good about the faith formation programs.
- We could strengthen communication, especially about the Bible stories the kids are studying each week and events coming up. We will work on this!
- Education will continue to be at a separate time from worship. See the display on the wall outside of the fellowship hall. Questions? Check with Pastor, Vicar Nicole, Carole, Education Team or Council.
- Families are interested in fun family nights. Watch your emails and Facebook for a bowling night coming soon.
- Planning for VBS will begin in January and we had some great suggestions.
- We need your help! Would you like to be on the education team? Plan and brainstorm VBS? Help plan family fun events? Contact Karla Appel or Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net

FINANCE

Giving With Gratitude & Generosity

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 ---- Dec, 2017

General Account	\$ 11,648
Restricted Accounts	\$ 21,765 (w/o Bldg. Fund)
Capital Campaign Account	\$ 265,022
Loan Receivable	\$ <u>1,182</u>
Total Short Term Assets	\$ 299,617
Fixed Assets	\$ <u>903,554</u>
Total Assets	\$1,185,741

Mortgage Balance	\$ 19,119 (at current Rate will be paid in April 2018)
Equity	\$1,203,171

Check Book Trends (General Fund & Restricted Fund W/O Capital Campaign Fund)

Jan	\$ 35,135	April	\$38,386	July	\$38,136	Oct	\$34,042
Feb	\$ 34,547	May	\$36,855	Aug	\$36,099	Nov	\$33,413
Mar	\$ 35,882	June	\$35,372	Sept	\$34,242	Dec	

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS

Sharing Tree

Once Again THANKS! The responses to the Sharing Tree were tremendous! For the Food Shelf, 39 gift cards to Bennett's (\$885 total), 11 gift cards for gas (\$365 total) and 3 gift cards to Subway (\$55 total) were donated. For "our special family", \$465 cash and \$175 in WalMart gift cards were donated.

Lights for Life

Thanks to all who donated to Lights for Life luminaries. It is always meaningful to the Confirmation students as they decorate the bags. Thanks for their artwork. These lights celebrate those who have fought with cancer. Money donated goes to the American Cancer Society for cancer research.

Advent Worship

Thank you to Gloria Keseley, Nicole & Erin Bartz, and Kaylee Hutchison for leading music at Advent worship.

Cookie Walk

Approximately \$2000 was collected through our Cookie Walk – that's just a few cookies sold 😊 Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way towards the success of this event. Also, thank you to Thrivent Financial and an anonymous donor for providing the lefse this year.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

01/01	Merlin Mielke		01/16	Travis Ihrke
	Annie Weinrich		01/18	Don Fiskum
01/02	Kathy Sveen		01/19	Sherry Tuxen
	Grace Wangen			Zachary Hassig
	Christian Wangen		01/23	Gloria Keseley
01/04	Tucker Johnson			MariClair Schneider
	Charli Yust		01/24	Fran Grover
01/05	Don Weinrich			Deb Weinrich
01/08	Ron Kurth		01/25	Hayley Rau
01/10	Kelsey Rahman			Hunter Rau
01/11	Nicholas Hanson			Evan Kobler
01/12	Tammy Peterson			Brandon Melcher
01/13	Trisha Schumacher		01/31	Tayla Erickson
01/15	Joe Crudele			Alysha Mohs

Anniversaries

01/04	Bob & Jeanne Dunn		
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**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONS
OR CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**When the past calls,
let it go to voicemail.
It has nothing new to say!**

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Plainview, MN 55964

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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 February 2018 Newsletter is

MONDAY, JANUARY 22.