

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff

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LENTEN SEASON – COMING SOON!!

LENT SCHEDULE 2018

**Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2018**

Service of Worship with
Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Communion

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT – 7:00 PM

Half hour service of worship

February 21
February 28
March 7
March 14
March 21

**Soup suppers will be served each Wednesday evening
during Lent from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.**

Use this link to sign up to help “feed the hungry”!
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1E7qWdwEOAILhqifZHElq-q8QbtEyhAbZXQ28XC1h5UPE/edit?usp=sharing>

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Lent begins February 14. Lenten devotions for adults will be available in the narthex. Please take one for your Lenten journey. A resource for families will be available too.

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PASTOR'S NOTE

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14, Valentine's Day. The time of Lent, 40 days plus the Sundays, is set aside to prepare us for Christ's death and resurrection. Lent comes from an old English word for "springtime." At its best Lent is a season of renewal and growing in our faith. Author Henri Nouwen described Lent as "a time of returning to God... a time of refocusing, of reentering the place of truth, of reclaiming our true identity."

As part of Lent, many people have observed the time by giving something up and/or adding something to their life. This type of Lenten observation can help people better live out their faith by keeping the focus on Christ and what Christ has done for us through his death and resurrection. Giving something up (denying ourselves something we have enjoyed) serves a reminder of Jesus who humbled himself, and giving up all things heavenly, for our sake, was obedient even unto death. Taking on an additional spiritual practice (more worship, prayer, giving, etc.) is also intended to focus us on following Jesus who leads us on the path of truth, grace and life.

We often think about Lenten activities as things like giving up chocolate or giving up sweets, or praying more. Barbara Brown Taylor's book "An Altar in the World" describes many different practices of faith that we can adopt. These practices connect with every day life and developing an awareness of God's presence in this world. These different practices help us to discover that God is not just God on Sunday or when we're at church, but God's presence is there in the world around us. As we gather for Lenten services on Wednesday nights we'll explore these different practices and what they mean for our lives.

February 14	Ash Wednesday – The Practice of Being Grounded
February 21	The Practice of Getting Lost – Wilderness
February 28	The Practice of Waking Up to God – Vision
March 7	The Practice of Paying Attention – Reverence
March 14	The Practice of Encountering Others – Community
March 21	The Practice of Living with Purpose - Vocation

The practices of faith that Barbara Brown Taylor outlines are intended to help us live our lives with purpose, pay attention, slow down and see God in the world we live in. As we discover God in the small things we do and see, our journey in this world becomes meaningful and we are better equipped to live out our faith.

I hope you will join us for Wednesday evening Lenten services as you find ways to practice and live out your faith through your daily life.

In Christ,
Pastor Krista

INTERN PASTOR'S NOTE

February- How can that be?

February brings Ash Wednesday on the 14th (yes Valentine's day--- and Easter is on April 1st – no Joke). The Lenten Season is a time to reflect and pray as we journey toward Good Friday and Easter. It lasts 40 days, from Ash Wednesday until Palm Sunday. I recognize there are many practices during lent.

- Many chose to fast or give up something for Lent. I have heard of people giving up chocolate, or soda for Lent. This is linked to the fasting of Jesus in the desert for 40 days.
 - Catholics give up meat on Friday, and turn to fish -- the common food of choice for Jesus and his followers. This practice is to commemorate the day that the Lord died by abstaining from something, something good (like meat), to recognize the cost of our salvation.
- Others have chosen to take things on during Lent, resembling what Jesus took on for us.
 - My professor at Seminary, Mary Hess, told us that it was a great time to remember stories of the Bible, faith forming stories. She recommended the book "*Bible Stories for the Forty Days*" by Melissa Musick Nussbaum. (I will warn that it has a profound cover photo.) I have this book at my home and have tried to read a story a night to my kids during Lent.
 - Another professor had a practice for adults, or proliferate readers, of reading the entire Bible during Lent. Here is a link to a study of that online:
<https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0178/8093/files/LentReadingGuide2014.pdf>.
(I did google it and found many other options.)

Whatever you do to commemorate this Lenten season, I encourage you to do something. Pray, read, study. I am not a fan of giving things up, mostly because I usually fail at it. However, if you do give something up, do so in a way that is meaningful for you. Lent is so full of meaning. How will you make the 40 days journey this year?

Above all Martin Luther said "*Let us show love to our neighbors, or our work will not endure.*" (In a sermon given on the 1st Sunday in Lent by Martin Luther in 1522).

Pray with me the psalm for Ash Wednesday from Psalm 51 verses 1-2:

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

²Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

Vicar Nicole Rockne

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

MILESTONE BLANKET WORK DAY

Nothing is more fun on a cold winter day than hanging out with friends. Spend **Friday, February 16th** with Good Shepherd friends making blankets for graduates and others. Meet at church for sewing, fellowship, fun, and of course food! Sewing skills are helpful, but not required. So if you can't sew, come anyway to cut, pin, tie and most of all have fun.

BOOK GROUP IN FEBRUARY

Winter is a great time to read books and talk about them with friends. Join Good Shepherd's Book Group for February! Our book is *Orange is the New Black* by Piper Kerman. You may check out a copy from the book bag in the church office.

The book is about the prison system--and is not as racy as the Netflix show. Charlene Richard, who has worked for many years in the prison system, will give us insights from her local experience. We will meet on **Wednesday, February 21st at 7:30 pm** immediately after Lenten worship in the youth room.

The March book is *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple. A library book bag is reserved so you can pick up books in the office after the February meeting.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Herberger's Fund Raiser

Good Shepherd youth are participating in the Herberger's Community Days to raise funds for the youth gathering in Houston, TX.

- We sell coupon books for \$5 and keep all the money--plus share profits that day.
- The first coupon in the book is for \$10 off anything including value items! It's a win/win for everyone.
- Coupons can be used March 1-3.
- You may get your booklet at church
- Or on-line at <http://bit.ly/2qGvYrT> They will mail the book directly to you.
- Get your booklet and tell your friends. We are excited to serve, learn, and worship with 30,000 ELCA youth in Houston.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Tyler Schonrock, *Director of High School Ministry* at Bethel Lutheran Church has extended an invitation to our congregation to attend a completely free event that is being held at Bethel Lutheran **on February 13th starting at 7:00 PM!**

Eric Samuel Timm, who is a nationally recognized artist/speaker that uses painting and humor to bring hope to those around him, is coming that evening and giving us an awesome display and presentation about Unity within the Body of Christ. We think that this is an awesome topic for those of all ages to hear, and we would love to see you and the families from your congregation there! Feel free to bring your youth groups as well! It should be a fun evening!

If you do not know who Eric is, or have never seen his work before, check him out on YouTube! There are plenty of different videos out there showing what he is about!

Carole Joyce is inviting high school students to ride together, leaving church at 6:15 pm. It sounds like it will be good for all ages and it is FREE.

MILESTONES

Baptisms

Blessings to Brecken Lewis Berning, who was baptized on December 10, 2017. Brecken is the son of Brent & Kathryn Berning.

Blessings to Levi Matthew Timm, who was baptized on December 24, 2017. Levi is the son of Ben & Desaray Timm.

EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION

During the month of February we will finish our study of prayer based on Anne Lamott's book "Help, Thanks, Wow." According to Anne Lamott, all prayers can be covered in the categories of help, thanks, and wow. Along with examining some of Anne Lamott's descriptions of her own prayers, we will look at examples of these prayers from the Bible.

For our next study, we plan to look at the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German, Lutheran pastor during World War II. Accused of being part of the plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was arrested, imprisoned, put in a concentration camp, and executed. Bonhoeffer was determined to do the will of God radically, courageously, and joyfully, even to the point of death. Join us as we explore Bonhoeffer's faith and actions.

TOGETHER IN FAITH

1st Grade: God and Gifts—February 4th at 9:30 a.m.

Kids and parents together will learn about ushering and what happens with money at church. Meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 am on February 4th**. Then sign up to be an usher on a Sunday or Wednesday during Lent!

Kindergartners: The Lord's Prayer (February 11th and 18th at 9:15 a.m.)

We look forward to seeing kindergartners and their parents to learn "The Lord's Prayer" and about the meaning of this special prayer that Jesus gave us.

We will meet at 9:15 a.m. on February 11h and 18h. Gather in the fellowship hall—the room closest to the kitchen. On **Sunday, February 25th**, our kindergartners will lead the Lord's Prayer during worship services. Sunday school students will sing during the 10:30 service that day.

Preschool Pray and Play for 3 & 4 year olds—February 25th

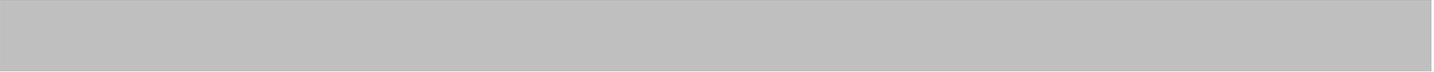
We're never too young to learn how to pray. Join us at **9:15 a.m. on the 25th** as we explore prayer and take home some fun new ways to pray and play together!

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.

MONTHLY TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study will be meeting at Good Shepherd Church on **February 6th at 1:00 p.m.** We are starting a new book, "Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them"



by Liz Curtis Higgs. If you would like to join us, just get a copy of the book and meet us on the 6th.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

Save the Dates for VBS 2018:

Monday - Thursday, June 11-14

6:00 - 7:45 pm

Who: Children currently in Grades Pre K- 4th

Watch for sign up information and volunteer opportunities in next month's newsletter.



VBS Planning Team Needed! We will meet late in February to finalize the theme and begin planning. Our faithful VBS superintendent has retired so we need your help! Skills needed are people with one (or more) of these skills: organized, creative, love Bible stories, love being with children, enjoy decorating, enjoy kids games, fun-loving, music. Contact Carole Joyce or Karla Appel to help pick the meeting time.

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE BIBLE CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

A week (or several days) at Bible camp is a wonderful way to have lots of fun, explore God's amazing creation, and have great faith conversations. New research shows this has a life-long effect! Because this can be such a meaningful experience, Good Shepherd will pay part of the fee of any student who would like to go to camp at Good Earth Village this summer! This offer is for any student Kind-9th grade. (Full scholarships are available for anyone with financial need. Just talk to Carole Joyce or Pastor Krista.)

It would be fun to have a group go together. What about the week of July 22nd – 27th? Otherwise pick any week that works for you. See the options and register at www.goodearthvillage.org. Brochures will also be available at church. Send your registration and deposit directly to Good Earth Village. Then let Carole Joyce or the church office know you are going!

Only want to go for one day and go with Good Shepherd friends? Sign up for July 25th and we will carpool together. Sign up by mid-March to make sure there is space.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT: KIDS FUN NIGHT—YOUTH FUND RAISER

February 17th from 5:00 – 9:00 pm

Good Shepherd youth are hosting a kids fun night on February 17th. Macaroni & cheese dinner and fruit will be served at 5:30 p.m. Over the course of the evening we will play active games, board games, do crafts, have an ice cream sundae bar and end with movies and popcorn. A suggested donation of \$20 per child or \$45 per family is requested. This is open to the community, so plan an adult fun night while we care for the kids. Children must be potty-trained or email for special reservations for infants. RSVP your children at carole.joyce1@gmail.com so we can plan for them.

FINANCE

FINANCE CONTINUED ...

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS

Thank you to all who have filled back packs for PEM school children. Kay Rasmussen has been transporting the backpacks. Pastor Krista has transported food. Confirmation students have filled the backpacks. We are thankful that families who need weekend food have the chance to receive it.

Our January noisy offering will be given to The PEM Angel Program – approximately \$115. This program gives students a hot lunch when their lunch account is negative. Thank you all for your support of this important program!

PROPERTY

2017 started off with a bang! In January, the furnace that services the secretarial and pastor's offices stopped working due to a plugged heat exchange. We purchased a new furnace, and opted to re-use the air conditioner, however it is quite old and I am keeping my fingers crossed that it holds out until we begin building renovations.

Spring brought smaller projects-light bulb and smoke detector battery replacements.

Summer was busy for the lawn mowing crew, thanks to all the rain! It was often hard to find a dry enough day to mow. Thank you to all who helped out this year with mowing.

Fall brought several larger projects. We replaced the culvert at the end of the driveway. It was upsized and lengthened to better facilitate water drainage and widen the driveway. A big thank you to Steve Fenske and Joe Suntken for all their hard work with this project. Light poles were moved and all were converted to LEDs. This was done in preparation for the upcoming building project/widening of parking lot, to better light our lot, and to save money. In the fall, we also brought in a caulking contractor to caulk the windows in the sanctuary as well as some expansion joints on the sanctuary brick work. They were leaking and were in desperate need of repair.

Throughout the year, Joe has been working with the architect on building plans. We are getting close to having all plans finalized so we can go out and get hard bids for the project. Once we obtain bids, we will have a better idea of exactly what a renovation/addition plan will cost.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

02/01	Riley Wendt		02/17	Jan Fiskum
02/05	Jon Amos			Ashton LaBare
	Barb Kingsley		02/18	Franny Schwantz
	Brynlee Matti		02/19	Leanne Brevig
02/07	Sandy Ulwelling		02/20	Carol Buntrock
	Ashley Schreiber		02/21	Steve Erwin
	Clayton Weinrich			Justin Gusa
02/08	Laney Gusa			Joe Weinrich
	Piper Schneider		02/22	Buzz Christison
	Tom Welti		02/25	Elaine Salek
02/09	Brenda Crudele		02/26	Kory Bigalk
02/10	Neil Weaver			Parker Grant
	Shannon Olstad		02/27	Kirk Bartz
02/11	Ryan King		02/28	Corrine Hanson
02/12	Gina Ihrke			Andrea Masee
02/16	Gracelyn Grant			Landon Gusa
	Cindy Rettmann			
	Paul Fick			

Anniversaries

02/06	Bob & Sue Tangen
	Lee Olson & Marcia Woodward
02/14	Jim & Char Balcome
02/16	Steve Fenske & Carol Goergen-Fenske
	George & Karen Back
02/26	Travis & Gina Ihrke

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

*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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**When you pray,
rather let your heart be without words
than your words without heart.**

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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 March 2018 Newsletter is

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22.