

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff



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LENT 2018

Wednesdays Remaining in Lent – 7:00 PM **Half hour service of worship**

- 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

Lenten devotions for adults and for families are located in the narthex. Take one for your use.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- Palm Sunday** **March 25, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**
Between Services:
Palm Sunday Breakfast
Easter Egg Hunt
- Maundy Thursday** **March 29, 7:00 PM**
- Good Friday** **March 30, 7:00 PM**
- Easter Sunday** **April 1, 8:00 & 10:30 AM**
Christ is Risen!

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT – MARCH 25

Breakfast Served 8:30 - 10:30 AM

Menu: **pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, fresh fruit, milk, juice and cinnamon rolls**

9:30 AM - Education Hour Egg Hunt and the telling of the Holy Week - Easter story for families and children. Bring your Easter basket if you have one. Come and experience the story and events of Holy Week and Easter.

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PASTOR'S NOTE

I'm one of those people who likes the season of Lent. Two of my favorite services of worship in a year are the Ash Wednesday Service and the Good Friday Service. I even enjoy the Lenten hymns and their tunes that are usually in a minor key. What I like about Lent is its focus on real life. It brings us face to face with who we really are (and aren't), what this world is really like (and isn't like) and who God really is. The ashes of Ash Wednesday and the words "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return" remind us that we came from the earth, that it was God who formed us from the dust of the earth and breathes life into us. While the day reminds us of our own mortality, it also reminds us of the gift of life, including eternal life that comes from God.

Good Friday is seeing God for who God really is. God does not shy away from pain and suffering. In fact, God's Son walks into the pain and suffering, the darkness and gloom of the cross. And here is the amazing thing about our God: that out of this pain and suffering, out of this darkness and gloom, God brings forth life – the resurrected life of Jesus Christ and the sure and certain promise of eternal life for us as well.

What I like about Lent is that it brings us somewhere. It has a goal. The end is not in the pain and suffering, or the darkness and gloom. The end is not the cross or the grave. Lent reveals that we need God and this world needs God. We need a God whose love for us and this world is stronger than any pain or suffering, any darkness or gloom. And Lent reveals that this is the God we have because Lent brings us through the cross and the grave to Easter, to the resurrection, to life, to joy.

We have to get to Easter so we don't stay stuck in the minor keys of life. We have to get to Easter to scatter the shadows of darkness and gloom. We have to get to Easter to see beyond death, the cross, and the grave. We have to get to Easter because it is Easter that gives us an eternal joy and peace which surpasses all understanding.

The Lenten hymn "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" closes with the words,

*Soon shall come the great awak'ning; soon the rending of the tomb!
Then the scatt'ring of all shadows, and the end of toil and gloom!*

ELW 327

Easter is coming soon – April 1st. Join me as we finish this Lenten journey and reach our goal of resurrection joy.

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

INTERN PASTOR'S NOTE

“There is no fear in love. Instead, perfect love drives away fear.” 1 John 4:18

“God is Bigger than the Boogie Man.” It is a Veggie Tales DVD movie I would show my kids when they were scared at night. The short movie explains to kids that no matter what they are facing, God is bigger, stronger, and never leaves their side. It sometimes helped my kids, with a little more prompting by explaining that we, mom & dad, will be here too.

It is a message I think all of us need to hear right now. God is bigger than any scary thing we face in this world. Does it mean there will not be disaster, or chaos, or heartbreak--- No. But I can assure you that God is there in the center of all the pain and suffering comforting those who have been hurt. This is what God does: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.” (John 3:16) God sent God’s son to die - to step into suffering and death and conquer it so that we can be certain of Salvation. God does not shy away from such scary, chaotic things but instead goes towards them.

There are two things to calm our fears in the wake of yet another horrific tragedy.

First: As we send our kids, grandkids, nieces/nephews on the bus to school – God is there! We are not that powerful to kick God out of anywhere, believe me I have tried to make God stop acting in my life and it doesn’t work. God is bigger! God shows up in the schools, in the shopping centers, in the mosques and anywhere there is present the Body of Christ (us, God’s creation). God cannot stop bad things from happening, but God will be there in the midst of suffering and pain. I had the privilege to listen to a faith statement this week of a man who has undergone so much trauma in his life. One thing I heard that even in the midst of bullets and chaos he could feel God’s presence as he prayed fervently. God was and is with him and all of us. There is no place that God cannot be.

Second: God steps into our pain and suffering. Many of us are left wondering what we should do after such tragedy hits. I don’t have the answers to that. However, we are the Body of Christ. We are God’s hands and feet in this world. Just like my kids when they were scared and comforted by the fact that God is there, yet still needed a physical person to hug them and be with them. That is what anyone who is suffering needs. Anyone who is troubled or hurt is a calling for us to stand with them. Be the physical presence of God in their life. I know we cannot do this with those in Florida or in other far off places. We can pray- pray for comfort and peace to all those who are hurting. I also know that there are many in our midst that are hurting in one way or another. This is the time to stand with them. Comfort them. You do not need to give great words of wisdom, or try to alleviate their pain with some solution. You just need to stand with them and let them know you and God are with them in the midst of their suffering.

“⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become a child of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:7—8

God’s blessings.
Vicar Nicole

CONGREGATION NEWS

CHURCH COUNCIL

Outgoing Council Members

On behalf of the Good Shepherd congregation, we want to thank our outgoing council members Tina Wangen, Todd Rau and Steve Fenske for their contribution and hard work as council members. Great job! Good Shepherd appreciates you!

Incoming Council Members

A warm welcome to our new council members Kory Bigalk, Wayne Miller and Sibyl Mason! Thank you for your commitment to your church family!

Current Church Council Members and Positions

Kory Bigalk	President	kgbigalk@aol.com
Jake Thompson	Vice President	m007395@gmail.com
Cindy Fuerstneau	Secretary	cyfuerstneau@msn.com
Tom Anderson	Treasurer & Finance	tom.plainviewfbm@embarqmail.com
Dawn Breuer	Congregational Life/Youth	adbreuer@embarqmail.com
Karla Appel	Education	appel.karla@mayo.edu
Sibyl Mason	Missions & Stewardship	sibylm12@gmail.com
Joe Suntken	Property	jsuntken@gmail.com
Steve Tradup	Worship & Music	stradup@hotmail.com
Wayne Miller	At Large	ellenmiller63@gmail.com

Feel free to contact any one of the Council members if you have any questions regarding Good Shepherd.

THRIVENT MEMBERS

A reminder to all Thrivent members that you have until March 31st to designate your 2017 Choice dollars. If you have any questions, you can contact Jake Thompson directly or call 534-3411.

GOOD SHEPHERD WEB SITE

Good Shepherd's website is updated regularly. Check it out at <http://www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/>

- Find the latest news on the Home page! Find the VBS registration, other summer opportunities, and photos from recent events!
- Watch Sunday sermons or read devotions to go along with Sunday's Bible reading on the worship page.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH NEWS

BOOK GROUP IN MARCH

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 church office any time. Discussion will be **Wednesday, March 21st at 6:00 p.m.** Note the time difference because of soup supper and Lenten worship. Grab your soup and come into Carole's office for discussion. Anyone who is interested may join the conversation.

The April book is **A Slave in the White House* by Paul Jennings. A library book bag will be in church office.

PALM SUNDAY: EDUCATION HOUR EASTER EGG HUNT & BREAKFAST

On **Sunday, March 25th**, a congregational breakfast will be served **starting at 8:30 am**. Then at 9:30 am, families are invited to experience the Easter story and join in an Easter egg hunt. Bring your own basket if you have one. We do have a few here at church. Palm Sunday worship will be at 8:00 am and 10:30 am as usual.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Learning Night March 7th at 7:30 pm: Join us as we talk about: What is the greatest injustice that has happened in our world? Injustice and our Response. The difference between Justice and Equality

Service: Wednesdays, March 7th, 14th, and 21st from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Serving soup suppers and clean up is great fellowship and fun. Join your classmates each Wednesday that you are able. This is a gift we can give our faith community and they LOVE talking to you.

MILESTONE BLANKET WORK DAYS


Many hands are needed to work on grad blankets and tag blankets! All are welcome to a morning of cutting, tying knots, laughter, prayer, and yummy soup & chocolate. Spend **Monday, March 12th from 8:00 am** to around noon with Good Shepherd friends making blankets for graduates and others. Come when you can and leave after a simple lunch. 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.

MILESTONES

Baptisms

Blessings to Kenydee Grace Sithisane, who was baptized on February 18, 2018. Kenydee is the daughter of Danica Froisland and Kinnaly Sithisane.

Loss of Loved One



Our sympathies go out to Jeanne Dunn and her family for the loss of Jeanne's brother-in-law, Jonathan Ractliffe, who passed away on Tuesday, February 6, 2018.

EDUCATION NEWS

ADULT EDUCATION

Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace (9:30 a.m. in Youth Room)

Adult Education during March will focus on the life and teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We will watch the movie "Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace" and discuss Bonhoeffer's decisions and faith. In June 1939, Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, originally from Germany, had a teaching position in the United States. He decided to return to Germany even though Germany was dominated by the Nazi's and was at war. Bonhoeffer wrote, "I must live through this difficult period of our national history with the Christian people of Germany." In Germany, Bonhoeffer was actively part of the resistance against Hitler, became a double agent, and was part of a plot to take Hitler's life. Bonhoeffer's actions and convictions cost him his life when he was executed by the Nazi's on April 9, 1945, a month before the end of the war. Join us as we look at Bonhoeffer's life and what it means to live out your faith, love God and neighbor.

There will be NO CLASS on Sunday, March 25th - Join us for Palm Sunday Breakfast and an intergenerational event and children's Easter Egg Hunt.

David Ramsey's Financial Peace University (9:15 a.m. in sanctuary)

What if you could always buy what you need interest-free? What if you could actually keep a percentage of your paycheck? Guess what? You CAN! With Dave Ramsey's class, Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money. If you are interested in learning more about the class, we are offering it at Good Shepherd starting 2/18-4/29 from 9:15-10:15 just for you.

There will be NO CLASS on Sunday, March 25th - Join us for Palm Sunday Breakfast and an intergenerational event and children's Easter Egg Hunt.

TOGETHER IN FAITH FOR 4TH GRADERS & PARENTS

Sunday, March 4th & 11th at 9:15 am students and parents will explore the Apostles' Creed together. What do we believe? As always some fun and games are planned as we learn the parts of the creed and what it means. Students will lead the Apostles' Creed at worship on March 18th.

AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study will meet on **March 6th at 1:00 pm**. We are starting a new book, "Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them", so now is a good time if you want to join in. Contact the church office if you have an interest.

EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED ...

FIRST COMMUNION TRAINING OFFERED

Part of our living as God's people is sharing in the meal that we call the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. During Lent we will be offering First Communion Instruction for all children in 2nd grade and above, with children receiving their first communion on Maundy Thursday, March 29th at the 7:00 PM service.

Like Baptism, Holy Communion is a gift of God's grace. There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve either sacrament. Holy Communion is a sacred meal in which we receive Christ's body and blood in the bread and the wine. All children planning to receive their first communion are asked to attend one of the following instruction classes. Our hope is for each student to be accompanied by a parent or another caring adult to share in this learning with their child.

Sunday	March 18	2:00 - 4:00 PM
Saturday	March 24	10:00 AM – 12 Noon

Although First Communion and First Communion instruction is offered for children in 2nd grade and above, not every child is ready at this time to receive Communion. We encourage parents and children to be in conversation and pray about whether or not their child is ready to receive this sacrament.

Students participating in First Communion Preparation are invited to **receive their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday Worship service at 7:00 PM, March 29th**. This is an evening that families have often invited grandparents, baptismal sponsors, and other family members to participate in too. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's readiness to receive Holy Communion, feel free to contact Pastor Krista or Carole Joyce

EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED ...

**Save the Dates for VBS 2018:
Monday - Thursday, June 11-14
6:00 - 7:45 PM**

New this year! A simple meal served from 5:25 – 5:55 pm. No more racing to feed your family before Come and eat together before participating in VBS.



coming.

Who:

- Children currently in Grades Pre K- 4th
- Older siblings and all youth are encouraged to be helpers!
- We encourage parents and other caring adults -- grandparents, god parents, aunts/uncles, neighbors... to share the experience with a child.

Sign up is coming soon. Contact Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net or 269-9374) with any questions.

VBS Youth & Adults Needed! VBS is so fun you won't want to miss out!

We are currently looking for youth and adults to help with VBS 2018 which will be held June 11-14 from 6:00 - 7:45 pm. Shepherd a group of kids, serve snacks, play games, prepare a simple meal, sing and dance along. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net or 269-9374) to sign-up.

SIGN UP NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN BIBLE CAMP ADVENTURES THIS SUMMER...

Good Earth Village Bible Camp

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. Because this can be such a meaningful experience, Good Shepherd would like to pay part of the cost for 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.)

- The easiest way is to register and pay deposit on-line at goodearthvillage.org
- Brochures are now available at church on the table in the narthex (and on-line); then send your registration and deposit directly to GEV.
- Let Carole Joyce or the church office know you are going.
- GEV recommends you register by early to mid-March to guarantee the week you want.

Some Good Shepherd kids are going for all or part of the week of July 22-27. If that doesn't work, choose any week that does.

Any Kind-4th graders who want to go for one day only, sign up for the Adventure Day on July 25. Carole Joyce would love to bring a group of kids.

FINANCE NEWS

Considered On-Line Giving? Simple – Convenient – No cost – Full Control

One Time Gift or Regular Giving -- (Weekly or Monthly)

Steps:

Go to our Web-site

www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org

Select **“Give” – Double Click on the Phone –**

Follow the directions -

Once on the Vanco site, you will be given a step by step process:

Create your profile – email address, name, bank routing number and the account you wish to draw from and password etc.

Select your preferred start date, donation date and frequency (weekly, monthly etc.)

Select the fund(s) you wish to contribute to: General, Building Fund, Youth etc.

(You can alter your contribution at any time by going to this site)

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Tom Anderson – 507-993-8236 or Tom.plainviewfbm@gmail.com.

Thank you for contributing to the ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP NEWS

NOISY OFFERING + Minnesota Food Share's March Campaign = FOOD for the HUNGRY!!!

The second Sunday of every month we collect a NOISY OFFERING. This noisy offering is given to a designated charity. Our March noisy offering is always specified to go to the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf.

Cash/Check donations are the best way to contribute to the Food Shelf because of the access the Food Shelf has to distribution programs that allow them TREMENDOUS buying power with your cash donations; however, food items will not be turned away. If you are able to help, please write out an extra check, made out to Good Shepherd and place it in the offering plate in addition to your regular offering. Note "food shelf" on the memo. At the end of the March, Good Shepherd will forward one check to the PEM Food Shelf to help with their March Campaign. Along with March's noisy offering, the Lenten offerings will also be directed to the Food Shelf.

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS

Thanks to all who packed and contributed to the Care Packages sent to our post high school youth. 27 packages were distributed. Each had personalized notes, Valentines, and other goodies. Thanks to Sue Tangen for the Thrivent action team which provided most of the postage and to everyone who provided goodies, and postage money.

Did you know that ALL of Good Shepherd's Wednesday night Lenten offerings go to the PEM Food Shelf? Please take this opportunity to do God's work—feeding the hungry. A special thank you to the many Good Shepherd members who volunteer regularly at the Food Shelf.

Thank you to the Good Shepherd families for providing food for the Lenten soup suppers. A special thanks to the youth for setting up and cleaning up. Any donations will go to the summer trip and mission outreach by the youth.

Thanks to all who supported the Herberger's Fund Raiser! Remember to use your coupon books March 1 – 3. We will report on the total raised next month.

GERTEN'S PLANT/FLOWER SALE TO BENEFIT PEM FOOD SHELF

The Plainview/Elgin Food Shelf is once again spearheading the spring flowers and bedding plant sale – all plants come from Gertens. Last year, all groups involved in selling these plants sold \$40,000 wholesale (5 semitruckloads). That is one heck of a lot of flowers – several of us from Good Shepherd know, as we helped unload the trucks. This was quite a site to see. The Food Shelf received approximately \$3,000 after everything was tallied up.

If interested in ordering through Good Shepherd, order forms and pictures of what is available can be gotten from the church office. **Orders and payment must be turned in to the church office by Sunday, March 18th. These orders will then be turned over to our group coordinator (Rita Powers for the Food Shelf). Rita has to have all orders and payment by Wednesday, March 21st.**

Delivery will be made on Monday, May 7th. All flowers MUST BE PICKED UP on that date – no exceptions!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

03/02	Erin Bluhm		03/19	Bonnie McMillin
	Jordyn Anderson			Jerilyn Horton-Schumann
03/05	Larissa Jurgenson		03/20	Randy Wendt
03/06	Owen Johnson			Carter Balcome
	Brady Wehrs		03/21	Kathy Sukalski
	Harper Schneider		03/22	Jim Balcome
03/07	Jackie Welti		03/23	Carson Rahman
03/10	Diane Fick		03/24	Marc Anderson
03/11	Jayden Munsch			Joe Suntken
	Austin Engler		03/25	Jan Sackreiter
03/12	Jacob Suntken			Mason Rahman
03/13	Bob Shanks		03/26	Craig Beck
	Jason Melbostad		03/27	Tina Wangen
03/14	Lukas Klennert		03/28	Roger Rettmann
03/15	Michelle Wendt			Jesalynn Bluhm
	Tara Ellinghuysen		03/29	Marget Christison
03/17	Gary Melbostad		03/30	Khloe Peter
	Gary Tesmer			Ava Steele

Anniversaries

03/15	Allen & Dawn Breuer
03/23	Ron & Betty Fahrenz

*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

**God answers “yes” and gives you what you want.
He answers “no” and gives you something better.
He answers “wait” and gives you the best.**

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Address Service Requested
Issue 205, Published Monthly

Presorted Special
Standard Mail
US Postage Paid
Plainview, MN 55964
Permit No. 68

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 April 2018 Newsletter is

THURSDAY, MARCH 22.