

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff



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THIS IS A COMBINED JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER!

Your next newsletter will be August 2018.

2-sided calendar in this newsletter

DID YOU KNOW???

THERE IS CHURCH IN THE SUMMER!!!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our summer worship schedule began on Sunday, May 27th and will go through Labor Day weekend, September 2nd. **We have one Sunday worship service at 9:00 a.m.**

Our 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening worship services will take place from Wednesday, May 30th through August 29th. Due to Vacation Bible School, there will not be Wednesday worship on Wednesday, June 13th. Also, there will be no Wednesday worship on July 4th.

Wednesday evening worship services are about 30-40 minutes in length. During the service, we sit around round tables and enjoy refreshments while we worship. Sunday morning worshipers will gather in the chairs in the rows in the sanctuary.

The lessons and sermon will be first shared at the Wednesday evening worship, and will be shared again four days later at the Sunday worship. Both worship opportunities will include "Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending", and follow a biblically based liturgy. Both worship services are about God's people coming together to worship, to show hospitality, to be fed with Word and Meal, and to be sent out in God's mission for the sake of the world. Let's continue to find times of Sabbath to be renewed, refreshed, and strengthened as children of God.

SAVE THE DATE!!

GOOD SHEPHERD CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, September 9th, Ebenezer Sunday

10:30 service of worship and a meal to follow.

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PASTOR'S NOTE

Look around you. Who is in front of you? Who's behind you? Who's on your right side? Your left side?

The blessing of church and the blessing of worship are the people who are around you. They have gathered together as the body of Christ and they (like you) are all members of the body. Each one important. Each one with different gifts. Each one needing each other (after all we don't want to be missing the hand or foot or pituitary gland).

There are more and more areas of our lives that we can simply do from our favorite easy chair (answer email, shopping, attending a class, talking to family and friends that live in another part of the country or the world). As a society that no longer has to be in a certain place to do certain things, what does all this mean when it comes to church and worshiping God? In addition, with so much going on in our lives and as people who know that God is with us (we know we don't have to go to church to have God present in our lives), we may again question what this means for church and attending worship. Add to that the fact that if all you're looking for is an excellent sermon or beautiful music, you can probably find more efficient ways to do this on the internet. So, what does this mean for worship and church? There are some who speculate whether a physical church will even matter in the future.

But what if the church and worship is more than a physical building or the best sermon or music? If church is about gathering as the body of Christ to be the body of Christ to and for one another, we can't get that on our phone or via the internet or in our favorite chair.

Worship and church are about "we" not "me." While our individual lives of faith are important, and it is important for each one of us to grow in our faith, worship is not a "me and Jesus" event. Worship is "we" not "me." Together we sing the song (even if you end up as out of tune as I do sometimes). Together we hear scripture and respond, "Thanks be to God." Together, in the presence of the family of God, a child is baptized because you need to get the family together in order to become part of the family. Together we share the Lord's Supper, because meals are always better together than alone. Together we speak, we sing, we sit, we stand, we pray.

There is also something transformative that happens in worship. Jesus said, "where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20). Water together with God's Word in the midst of the community becomes the living water of eternal life in baptism. Bread and wine with God's Word in the midst of the community becomes a meal of forgiveness and salvation. And you and I gathered together in the midst of the community become empowered to live lives of hope and grace in a world in need of hope and grace.

We may not always know (or know very well) the person who is in front of us, behind us, to our right or to our left, but there's something about that person being there – it's an intentional way Christ has promised to show up for you. And it is also a way in which God is working through you to be the body of Christ to others. Sometimes we think there's another person or a better person that can do that, but that is not the case. God made only one you to be part of the body Christ, and the body of Christ needs you, the you that God made, because only together can we truly be the body of Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

INTERN PASTOR'S NOTE

*“Summertime, and the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high.”*

This is what I think of when I dream of summer and anticipate its approach. In reality, I think I am busier than ever as I try to soak up all the earth's goodness with friends and family. In Minnesota we have 3 months to do it, so we better get out there, right? Rarely, I do have moments where this song fits. Where Ella Fitzgerald is singing in my ear and I am lounging in the warm weather enjoying all that is around me.

I don't know about you, but life sometimes gets busy with the “must do's” and the “have to's.” It is hard to just be. Some of these things are wonderful: graduations, weddings, family reunions, and other such things. Yet, I find myself longing for the time when we don't have to be anywhere. When we can just be.

I don't know if you are like me at all, but I encourage us all to take time this summer to enjoy being. Sitting still in God's marvelous creation. No agenda, no ring leader, nothing holding you back from enjoying what is right in front of you. In our Lenten series this year we explored aspects of Barbara Brown Taylor's Book “An Altar in The World.” Barbara explores the many ways we can worship God right where we are. To bow down, humbled to know that our God loves even us amidst all that is. Explore this altar in our world. Stop and be.

Here are some helps to do so:

- Open your eyes and pay attention to what is around you. Not just the things you see everyday, but the other things too.
- Get lost. Take a different route home. Do something out of the ordinary. And then notice, notice the difference.
- Look, really look and enjoy the others around you. Who are they? What don't you know about them.
- Be still, be silent and listen.

All in all, I hope you have a blessed summer where you can worship God's creation around us. I hope that you may also find peace amidst the chaos.

Blessings.

Vicar Nicole

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Over the coming year our Synod will engage in the process of calling a new bishop. One of the tools we will use to equip us in this work is an assessment called Landscape. I would like to use this brief letter as an opportunity to share a general overview of Landscape, its purposes, and its intended audience.

Before a congregation calls a new rostered minister, they go through a period called self-study. It is a time of prayer, reflection, and discernment. Landscape is part of our self-study period as a Synod. It will help us determine the needs of our wider community and Synod. Upon completion of the survey, we will receive a summary of the results from Crows Feet Consulting, who is helping us facilitate the process. One of the gifts of Landscape is that its findings will empower us all to have more informed collective conversations about the gifts we are seeking in our next bishop.

The Landscape assessment will take the form of a survey that can be taken online or printed out in PDF format. It will be open from July 9-August 24 and can be submitted anonymously. The following groups of people will be invited to participate:

- Faith Formation leaders and volunteers
- Active rostered ministers
- Retired rostered ministers
- Communicators, office managers and secretaries
- Church council members and recent call committee members
- Lay congregational members with active involvement in the synod
- Synod Council members
- Office of the Bishop staff

The insights gained through this assessment will be initially received by Synod Council and members of the Committee on the Election of a Bishop in early September and then shared more widely throughout the fall. Your participation in Landscape will be very beneficial in making the most of this opportunity. Please watch for additional details in early July.

Peace & Joy in Christ,
Bishop Steven Delzer

CONGREGATION NEWS

BUILDING UPDATE:

On Sunday, May 13th, the congregation voted to proceed with the revised (taking off the proposed Fellowship Hall) renovation and construction project, estimated at \$1.1 million. The goal is to break ground August 1st. This project fixes the problems with the western wall and western roof and Fellowship Hall roof, all of which are in immediate need. In addition, the Gathering Space is updated, kitchen relocated and becomes a cooking kitchen, and offices will be more secure, located near the entrance. Currently we are meeting with various lenders about a loan. A congregational vote will be needed to secure a loan. Through email and church announcements we will keep you update on what is happening.

MILESTONES

Confirmation: Blessings to the following students who affirmed their faith on May 6th:

Jakob Bethke, Christian Dunn, Jacob Harlow, Alese Ihrke, Jayden Ihrke,
Evan Kobler, Dylan Koepsell, Carly McCaleb, Kaylee Peter, Peyton Schumacher

Graduating Seniors: Blessings to the following seniors who graduated from high school this spring:

Jordyn Anderson, Erin Bartz, Nicole Bartz, Danika Bethke, Molly Bluhm, Nicholas Crudele,
William Dunn, Sage Grover, Brady Patzer, Parker Shanks, Hanna Sveen, and
Brady Walter.

You are all wrapped in God's love and the prayers of your Good Shepherd faith family as you go out to serve in God's world.

FAITH ON THE GO

Jesus is with us wherever we go. How exciting to remember God's presence wherever we are this summer! Bring Sunday's Bible reading with you.

- 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/>
- See the latest news and activities at <http://goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/>
- Join the Good Shepherd Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GSLCPLAINVIEW/>

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

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Please pray for our 10 Good Shepherd youth and two adult leaders, Franny Schwantz and Carole Joyce, as they experience the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, June 24th through July 2nd. Pray for all the leaders and volunteers who make this life-changing event possible and for the whole community of Houston. During the Gathering, go to www.elca.org and look for the link to watch the mass gathering events live.

Our group will ride a bus with other SE MN youth for 2 days down and back. While in Houston, they will worship with 30,000 others, serve the community, and learn & play with all kinds of interactive activities. This experience will widen our understanding of the body of Christ and how we work together. Amazing speakers and musicians will also be highlights. Thanks to Good Earth Village who has organized our bus transportation!

EDUCATION

PASSING ON THE FAITH

Sharing faith with children, youth, and each other is one of the most important things we do as a faith community!! Much of this happens at home, but we also learn Bible stories and God's love here at church. We need caring adults and high school youth to teach and help with Sunday school AND mentor with Confirmation on Wednesdays. Is God calling you to share your gifts? Please consider this call to be a caring adult in the lives of our children and youth.

We need teachers for Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 5th/6th grades. Most teachers prefer to team teach—allowing flexibility to be gone up to half of the weekends. We can always use Sunday school helpers and substitutes as well. Contact Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net or 269-9374 if you have questions or would like to serve. Remember -- you will learn and grow as much as the kids! That's God's grace at work!

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

SUPER HERO SUMMER SERVICE FOR 6TH-9TH GRADERS **WEDNESDAYS JUNE 6, 13, AND 20** **8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Super Hero Summer Service is for anyone who has completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grades. If you have completed 9th – 12th grades, you can be a leader/mentor. Be a super hero in the community by helping others. Sign up for one or all weeks, depending on your summer schedule. Transportation will be provided (we can pick you up from your home if needed). You can leave whenever you need to if you have other commitments. Bring your own sack lunch. Other treats will be provided. Service activities planned are:

- June 6: Road trip to Good Earth Village Bible Camp to help them get ready for summer campers.
- June 13: Plainview library; BINGO at St. Isadore's.
- June 20: Creating tag blankets, bowls for Channel One, and attic adventures at GS.

Please contact Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net if interested. Yes, your friends may come too.

VBS 2018: MAKER FUN FACTORY

WHEN: Monday – Thursday, June 11-14
MEAL SERVED: 5:25 – 5:50 pm – FOR EVERYONE
VBS STARTS: 6:00 – 7:45 pm
WHO: Children currently ages 3 through 4th grade

New this year -- a MEAL will be served every night before VBS starts to make it easier for busy families. Come between 5:25 and 5:45 pm for a simple meal before the VBS fun begins.

VBS is finally here! We have a great week planned with lots of Bible stories, learning, fun and games. If you want to come but haven't registered yet, contact Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net or 507-269-9374 with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

GEV ADVENTURE DAY FOR KINDERGARTEN-4TH GRADE

Good Shepherd will again be taking a group to the Adventurers camp at Good Earth Village for any students completing grades K-4. This is a one day camp on **Wednesday, July 25th**. The camp runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with lunch provided. Pastor Krista will carpool to and from GEV in Spring Valley and join you for the day. If you would like to participate in this great opportunity, register at Good Earth Village, then contact Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net. Good Shepherd will pay \$25 of your child's costs.

FINANCE

During the summer months with weekend events and family vacations, we know church attendance tends to slip. Even if you are unable to make it to church, you can still help us meet our monthly expenses through your continued giving. Offerings can always be mailed to the church or dropped off during the week. In addition, 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. 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).

MISSIONS AND STEWARDSHIP

NOISY OFFERING!!!!

Always, the second Sunday of the month

June's noisy offering will be going to the PEM Food Shelf. Just a few months ago, Good Shepherd members donated more than \$2,200.00 to help the Food Shelf raise funds during the March campaign. That was a great effort, but it won't get them through the year. In the summer kids are out of school and the Food Shelf sees an increase in the number of families utilizing their services. Let's step up to the plate, alleviate some stress, and help to feed our friends and neighbors in need by supporting our local Food Shelf again in June.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Blanket makers: Thank you to the women who gathered this winter to make blankets for the graduates and pray for them.

The May noisy offering went to fight juvenile diabetes. We sent the money (approximately \$152) off with our prayers for all families walking with diabetes.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Video Team

THANK YOU, Bob Endres, for all the years you took care of the scheduling for Good Shepherd's Video Team – **JOB WELL DONE!**

Bob has decided to take retirement from his duties, BUT...THANK GOODNESS we have Todd Rau, who graciously volunteered to step up and take over those responsibilities. We are losing two good members of the team due to graduation (William Dunn and Nicolas Crudele), so Todd is hoping to "round up" about 6 new volunteers to help video our Sunday services. If you have an interest in being on the Video Team, please contact Todd Rau at trau219@gmail.com. Todd will be working on putting together a new schedule, so the sooner you can contact Todd, the easier it will make it to get those schedules put in place.

THANK YOU WILLIAM AND NICOLAS FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TEAM!

Lectors

Cindy Fuerstneau has been doing the scheduling for the Lectors for the past few years and Cindy has also decided to "retire". **THANKS, Cindy, for your years of scheduling also. ANOTHER JOB WELL DONE!** If anyone is interested in picking up the responsibilities for Lector scheduling, please contact Cindy (cyfuerstneau@msn.com) or the church office. Cindy has the schedule completed through Wednesday, August 29th.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

06/02	Steve Fenske		06/20	Claire Folkert
	Nolan Pfeilsticker			Caden Castle
06/04	Scott Rohlik			Will Schumacher
06/05	Jessica Schumacher		06/22	Bob Sloan
06/06	Cindy Fuerstneau			Rose Nienow
06/09	Bryce Beckel		06/23	Jackie Arens
06/10	Scot Engler			Shane Kingsley
06/11	Mark Johnson		06/25	Lydia Kreofsky
06/12	Karla Appel			Colton Niemeyer
	Kroy Steffen		06/27	Jack Schreiber
06/13	Bob Endres		06/28	Roger Arens
06/14	Kale Steffen		06/30	Alicia Pfeilsticker
06/18	Alese Ihrke			

Anniversaries

06/09	John & Elaine Salek		06/19	Tyler & Sarah Niemeyer
06/10	Kevin & Michelle Gudmundson		06/20	Jake & Amy Thompson
06/14	Brent & Andrea Masee			Buzz & Marget Christison
06/16	Kit & Jan Sackreiter		06/23	Ryan & Brittany King
06/17	Craig & Lisa Beck		06/24	Arvin & Corrine Hanson
06/18	Bill & Bonnie McMillin		06/25	Troy & Betsy Munsch
	Mike & Sherry Tuxen		06/30	Arlo & Penny Simonson
06/19	George & Elaine Tesmer			John & Tammy Wehrs

*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 doesn't ask your ability or your inability.
He asks only your availability.**

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

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

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We're not Dairy Queen, but we've got GREAT Sundays!

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

PO Box 355
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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 2018 Newsletter is

SUNDAY, JULY 22.