

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff

Contact Information

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 355
Plainview MN, 55964
(507) 534-3675
www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org

Pastor: Krista Henning-Ferkin
Office Hours: Vary
Email: Krista.goodshepherd@gmail.com
Phone: (507)534-3675 (office)
(605)480-2325 (cell)

Intern: Vicar Nicole Rockne
Office Hours: Vary
Email: nrockne001@luthersem.edu
Phone: 507-398-7710

Cong. Administrator: Lynn Eversman
Office Hours: Vary
Email: secretary@goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org
Phone: (507)534-3675

Passing on Faith Facilitator: Carole Joyce
Office Hours: Vary
Email: carole35@charter.net
Home Phone: (507) 288-0551
Cell Phone: (507) 269-9374

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH IS GOOD SHEPHERD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

10:30 a.m. One Worship Service of Thanksgiving
12:00 p.m. Share a meal together on the Front Lawn
Bounce House (weather permitting)

**This will be a time of giving thanks for what God has done.
(See article on page 5 of this newsletter.)**

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Mark your calendars NOW for the following September events!

Confirmation Orientation (7 th /8 th grade students and parents)	Wed. Sept. 5 6:00 pm
Children's Choir	Wed. Sept. 5 6:00 pm
Alumni Choir Practice	Sun. Sept. 9 9:30 am
40th Anniversary Sunday Worship	Sun. Sept. 9 10:30 am
40th Anniversary Meal and Fellowship	Sun. Sept. 9 12:00 pm
Bedtime Bible Stories (for 3-year olds and parents)	Wed. Sept. 12 6:00 pm
Sunday School Teacher Meeting	Wed. Sept. 12 7:00 pm
First Day of Sunday School and Parents Meeting	Sun. Sept. 16 9:15 am
Third Graders Receive Bibles	Sun. Sept. 16 10:30 am
Senior High Youth & Parent Ice Cream Social Kick-Off	Wed. Sept. 26 7:30 pm

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PASTOR'S NOTE

For 40 years Good Shepherd has been having an impact on people's lives. I love to hear the stories of the founding members who tell me that "when others wouldn't baptize them, we would; when others wouldn't marry them, we would; when others wouldn't bury them we would." I love seeing the excitement of our young people who attended Vacation Bible School or Camp or the high school mission trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. They have had experiences that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. I am always touched to hear from those who have gone through tough times and share the difference it has made to have the support, care and prayers of Good Shepherd. There are so many stories out there! 40 years worth of stories!

One of the most recent stories of Good Shepherd impacting people's lives is our participation in the seminary internship program. Two years ago, out of the blue we received a call from Luther Seminary. The supervising pastor at Vicar Nicole's original internship congregation, unexpectedly died of a brain aneurism. While we weren't planning on having an intern (we had never even talked about the possibility), we were asked if God might be leading us to participate in this ministry. As we think about Vicar Nicole's time with us, we may think of all the many ways she has touched our lives with her ministry. In addition, we have provided a ministry to her and to the larger church. This has been a time of growth and learning for Vicar Nicole (and hasn't it been fun to see that progress and development take place!). We were asked to be an internship congregation (out of the blue) because of our reputation for being a good and healthy place focused on doing ministry. We have provided that encouragement and support and those learning opportunities for Vicar Nicole. Also, by participating in this ministry of internship and preparing a pastor to serve the church at large, we have an impact on making sure that another congregation has a pastor. In our Southeastern MN Synod of the ELCA there will be 35 pastors retiring in the next 3 years and we only receive an average of 2 new pastor candidates per year. Across the ELCA it is predicted that we could be short about 1000 pastors in the next 3-5 years because on average 400 pastors retire each year and only about 200 are coming out of seminary to serve as pastors. Participating in the ministry of internship we have helped lift up another pastor for the church at large.

When we come together in Christ, loving God and loving our neighbor lives are changes. We may not see the impact at first glance but God is at work in and through our ministry. I don't know exactly what the future holds for the larger church, for Vicar Nicole or for Good Shepherd, but I do know God is at work here in this place and in all of us and God will continue that work into the future God has prepared for us.

Join me on Sunday, September 9th as we gather in worship to celebrate 40 years of God's work here at Good Shepherd. And join me on Sunday, September 30th as Vicar Nicole concludes her internship with us and we send her off with our prayers and God's blessings.

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

INTERN PASTOR'S NOTE

This is hard!

It has been two years since I said hello and you all welcomed me so graciously. I have learned so much from everyone here and gained so many dear friends. I can't even begin to Thank you all for welcoming me in and letting me stagger along at this pastor thing. You have been kind, patient, and above all caring for me and my journey.

Here is what I have learned from Good Shepherd:

- You are incredibly Hospitable. You have not only welcomed me in with your open arms but I have seen you welcome others in and have heard numerous stories about how people came here because you welcomed them in when other churches didn't. That is simply AMAZING! That is being the Body of Christ.
- Everyone at Good Shepherd pulls together to make things work. Most of the time at the last minute, but it happens because you make it happen! Not just one person, or a select few but there are so many of you volunteering and making sure this church works. It is truly remarkable what you all do!
- Lynn, or as we call her the "CS." She is truly dedicated to what she does for Good Shepherd and she does it all with such pizzazz, or sass. It has been so fun to work with her and her great sense of humor. She has such a way of making sure things get done and puts smiles on people's faces when she does it. That is talent! She cares deeply for everyone and makes sure everyone is taken care of. She is much more than a Church Secretary. Thank you- you made this so easy, and fun.
- You have a grade A education team and place of learning. The committee, teachers and helpers make sure everything runs and kids feel welcomed. The mentors that accompany these young people are also truly amazing. They are by far some great mentors in the faith going above and beyond for the youth of this congregation.
- Carole makes Faith formation look easy, but she is deliberate and passionate about nurturing faith in all members. She is by far the best I have worked with. She is someone I hope to lean on in the future, as she has so much knowledge and insight to share. We worked so well as a team. I have gained so much wisdom from her and I am blessed to have worked with her. She has her hand in so much ministry in this church- her dedication is mind-blowing. What I will miss most of all is our weekly meetings together with Pastor Krista and myself. It was a great support system and truly helped me in more ways than I can count.
- The quilting ladies rock! I was able to hang out with them a couple times and it was a blast, even though my talents DO NOT LIE in sewing. If I can do this anyone can, and they accepted me they will accept you too. They produce such precious gifts for so many.
- The music team makes everything come together in worship so beautifully. They are such gifted musicians and do such great ministry for all Good Shepherd. I need to be in Gloria's children choir – they are super-duper! The team of cantors are a blessing to all. Jan brings such talent and years of teaching. From what I understand Jan and Don helped make Good Shepherd's music program top notch. Karen breathes such energy and life into her piano playing and is such a joy herself. All have been so accommodating to me as I fumble through this. Thank You! Keep up the great music.

INTERN PASTOR'S NOTE

- The council is so passionate about what they do, and the ministry of Good Shepherd. It has never been a chore to sit through a meeting, but always a learning experience to see how you guide this congregation through some pretty tough stuff with grace and ease. Thank you for your leadership.
- The finance team: Tom & Dawn, work hard at making sure the bills get paid yet realize that it isn't always about the money -it is about you and the ministry that happens. It is all done with such love and faith that helps to make this church a church and not a business. This attitude toward our budgets is not only unique but a great blessing. You have taught me much, and helped to make budgets understandable (I don't play well with #'s).
- The building committee never slacks off. I know the building itself needs much repair, but those who take pride in this building have worked tirelessly to make sure it is more than sufficient. Joe has put in countless hours caring deeply for the maintenance of this place. You can't ask for better helpers in this kingdom. One must not forget those who keep this place looking so snazzy! And the flowers- by far the best I have ever seen!
- The congregational care team prays and cares so much for each and everyone of you, and beyond. The list they have of people they pray for is long and they care deeply for each and every person on that list. They are your prayer warriors. They are good at it too. Thanks for caring so deeply!
- My internship committee has been so accommodating and willing to give feedback to help me grow. Their loving guidance has helped me become a better person and pastor-to-be. They also worked so hard to make sure all the paper work for Luther Seminary was done on time. Thank you for all you did.
- Pastor Krista has been a mentor, friend, teacher and best of all companion on this journey of mine. I will never forget her kindness and leadership. I can only hope that I will find such a partner in ministry as I have in her. She is always ready to help guide me through what I need to learn, reflect on things I've done, and listens to my constant talking. I have never found a more self-less partner in ministry. She always goes the extra mile for me and for this congregation despite whatever is going on for her personally. She is truly giving her all to make sure this body of Christ is cared for and nurtured in faith. I will miss her partnership, and our talks together, and her willingness to reflect on everything because I insist. She has taught me so much through word and deed. Thank you doesn't even come close to my appreciation for the many gifts you have bestowed on me.

I seriously cannot stop gushing about you all! My only complaint is this: you have set the bar high. I don't want to leave! Every one of you has been such a gift to me. I am so blessed! Thank you and God Bless.

Your Humbled "V"

GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

BUILDING UPDATE

On September 24th at 7:00 pm at the Wabasha County Courthouse Board Room there will be a public meeting to vote on a conditional use permit for the church. Since Good Shepherd is in an area of Wabasha County that in 2001 was zoned agricultural or residential this step is necessary for the renovation and construction project. On October 2nd the County Commissioners will then vote. Currently, CMS is reviewing our plans for their approval. What this all means for us is that the earliest we will be able to start the renovation/construction project is right after October 2nd. As a result, the building will NOT be under construction for the 40th Anniversary celebration on September 9th and for the start of our fall programming.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Golf Outing - Saturday, September 8th

Tee Times starting at 10:00 am

Sign up at :

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Q3aq0scGEgTLX71zXK2dxqmjN0TMDyzArjZac-cC8BA/edit?usp=sharing>

Lunch at Eagles' Nest in Plainview - Saturday, September 8th

After golfing (or even if you don't golf), show up at the Eagles' Nest for Lunch – 12:30 p.m.

Bonfire at Mark and Karen Jurgenson's - Saturday, September 8th at 7:00 pm

Bring snacks to share and your own beverages

40th Anniversary Service of Worship - Sunday, September 9th at 10:30 am

On what is normally Ebenezer Sunday, we will celebrate our 40th anniversary. We will look back over the past and look to the future and remember all the ways God has helped us to grow in our ministry. We have many things to be thankful for and on September 9th we will name those things and recognize that our ministry isn't finished yet but we have come this far because the Lord has helped us. Join us and invite your family, neighbors, and friends as we raise our "Ebenezer" or "stone of help" and give thanks to God who is our "help" not only in times of trouble but always.

9:30 a.m. – Alumni Children's Choir Practice (see page 9).

Checklist:

- ✓ Take time to reflect on what God has done in your life and at Good Shepherd.
- ✓ Bring a stone as a symbol of what God has done for you.
- ✓ Come ready to give thanks to God at the 10:30 a.m. worship!
- ✓ Continue the celebration with a noon meal under the big tent on the front lawn.

Lunch following worship and activities (bounce house and games) for the kids

Grilled chicken, potatoes, and root beer floats provided for lunch.

Congregation members are asked to bring a salad, fruit, and/or dessert to share.

We also can use people to help set up, serve, and clean-up.

Sign up at:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zcik-q_TmkwaWU5ppUS1BmLWCKDqiYAlq_LpqWKm670/edit?usp=sharing

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK GROUP

Calling all book lovers. You are invited to join the Good Shepherd Book Group as we read, discuss, laugh, and grow! We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. New people are always welcome! These are the books we will be reading during the 2018-2019 year in case you can't wait to get started!

Our first meeting will be at church on Wednesday, September 19th at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss *Origins* by Dan Brown. If you haven't read it yet, beg, borrow or buy a copy and show up on Wednesday, September 19th.

Here is a list of what the Good Shepherd Book Group will read for the next program year.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOOK TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>
September 19	<i>Origins</i>	Dan Brown
October 10 (or 17 – MEA)	* <i>Small Great Things</i>	Jodi Picoult
November 14	* <i>The Martian</i>	Andy Weir
December 19 (or 12)	<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>	Celeste Ng
January 16	* <i>The Bookshop on the Corner</i>	Jenny Colgan
February 20	* <i>The Room</i>	Emma Donoghue
March 20 (Lenten time change ?)	* Stella Bain	Anita Shreve
April 17 (or 10 – Holy week)	* <i>Crimes Against a Book Club</i>	Kathy Cooperman
May 15	<i>Still Alice</i>	Lisa Genova

*Library book bag.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

We will kick off the high school year with a sundae bar on Wednesday, September 26th at 7:30 pm. Parents and youth are invited to come as we plan for the year and talk about next summer's service trip. Parents and youth will break out into separate groups to choose priorities for the year.

PRAYER PARTNERS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Each year Good Shepherd matches our recent high school grads with a prayer partner for the next academic year. Prayer partners remember this person in their own personal prayers and reach out to the person four or more times during the year to check in and let the person know they are being prayed for. If you are interested in being a prayer partner, contact Pastor Krista.

EDUCATION

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday afternoon Bible Study Group is looking forward to start meeting again on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., which will be September 4th. This year we will continue using the book “Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them”— starting with Chapter 3. Anyone who is interested in joining the Bible Study group is certainly welcome to do so. If you have any questions, you can contact Donna Tesch at donna.tesch@gmail.com.

BEDTIME BIBLE STORIES

Beginning Sunday school at age three is an important milestone in a child’s life! Parents and three year olds (who turn three by September 1st) are invited to Bedtime Bible Stories on **Wednesday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m.** Children receive their own Beginner’s Bible, meet their Sunday school teachers, and get a tour of the church. Parents will join in the activities, meet other parents, and think more about their role in their child’s faith journey. All three year olds are welcome! Come in your pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

We give thanks to God for the awesome leaders who will be teaching Sunday school this year! Please keep them in your prayers as they commit to sharing stories of God’s love with our children and youth. We still need teachers for the 5th/6th grade class. (Team teachers share the job so they don’t teach every week.) Talk to Carole Joyce to volunteer or find out more!

Do you know anyone who would like to be a helper? High school youth and adults are welcome. Talk to Carole Joyce to find out where helpers are needed.

All Sunday school teachers and helpers will meet on Wednesday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m. This is an important time to learn about students, curriculum, and the year. Most important, we will pray for our children. Please plan to attend this meeting. Contact Carole Joyce at 269-9374 if you have questions.

FAITH AND SCIENCE SUNDAY FORUMS AT 9:30 AM (for Adults, High School, and Middle School Students)

How do faith and science work together? Can Christians believe in evolution? If God created dinosaurs, why aren’t they in the Bible? Confirmation students often ask these questions and we adults wonder too. During September and October we will explore these challenging questions with a series on Faith and Science: **September 23rd, 30th, October 7th, 14th, and 28th.**

- Each week will begin with a short video to start our discussion.
- Youth will help lead the conversation.
- Our final week will include a panel of local scientists.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

All children age 3 through 8th grade are invited and encouraged to participate in Sunday school and Confirmation at Good Shepherd. Regular Sunday school classes will begin on September 16th. If you haven't registered yet, do it today!

- Register on-line at <http://goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/sunday-school/>
- Or pick up a registration in the church narthex.
- Or complete a form emailed to parents with a valid email address on file.

We need ALL children to register so we have current information. We ask you to do this as soon as possible so our teachers can be prepared and ready for the kids who are planning to attend Sunday school.

New students are always welcome! Invite a friend or neighbor and invite their children to participate too.

Kick Off the Sunday School Year: Building Lives in Christ Sunday, September 16th at 9:15 am

- Meet your Sunday school teacher & class!
- Join in some fun & games and crafts.
- Important parents' meeting for ALL parents!
- All are welcome so bring a friend.

Please join us on **Sunday, September 16th at 9:15 a.m.** for the Sunday School Kick-off event. Parents will start out in the sanctuary for information and fellowship. Kids will start out in the sanctuary too but will be dismissed by grade to their Sunday school classes.

7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

All 7th and 8th graders are invited to be a part of Confirmation. We meet on Wednesdays for food and faith from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. After a simple meal provided by parents, the youth meet in large groups to study the Small Catechism and small groups to talk about faith in everyday life.

Confirmation Kick-Off will be Wednesday, September 5th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. All students AND parents will gather at 6:00 p.m. for a meal. Plan to contribute \$4 per person for the main dish. **Please bring a side or dessert to share and a beverage.** We will look ahead at our year together.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

ADULT EDUCATION

Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Youth Room
Starting September 23rd
Topic: Faith and Science
(For more information, see article on page 7)

PASSING ON THE FAITH! THIRD GRADE BIBLES

During worship on **September 16th**, we will celebrate the milestones of 3rd graders receiving Bibles from their parents. The Bibles are a gift from Good Shepherd, and are presented by parents to children. This is one step of fulfilling the promises we made at baptism. Third graders and their parents will take part in **two special class sessions on September 23rd and 30th** to help them get more familiar with their Bibles.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

COME SING A SONG

There is still time to sign your child up for Children's Choir for the 2018-2019 school year. If your child is in grades K-6, they are invited to come and sing with the Good Shepherd Children's Choir. All voices are welcome – experienced and new! The choir practices every **Wednesday** night from **6:30 to 7:30** and they participate in the worship service approximately twice a month. Mrs. Keseley tries to mix learning with fun. The children will learn how to use their voices properly, what it means to be a worship participant, good music literature and some things about reading notes and feeling rhythms. When time allows they play a musical game.

The **first gathering** will be **September 5th at 6:00 pm rather than 6:30**. This meeting will be used as a sign-up time for those who haven't already signed up and a time to fit robes as well as our first rehearsal of music. The **first half hour will be used for robe fitting and rehearsal will start at 6:30**. The children will be given the practice schedule and Sundays they sing schedule that evening as well. They **will practice until 7:30**.

If you have questions, please call Gloria Keseley, 534-2147.

MISSIONS AND STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Thanks for providing school supplies for kids who need them in the PEM district.

Thank you to the many, many hands involved in getting Good Shepherd ready for building. A special thanks to Joe Suntken, Pastor Krista, the Building Team, and the Church Council as they lead the process. We pray for God's guidance in the on-going ministry of Good Shepherd.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits.

Start gathering the items listed below for the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. On October 21st the whole congregation will work together to will pack these and do other service for our community and world.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE** adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*
- ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

** Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap*

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

09/01	William Dunn	09/15	Parker Shanks
09/03	Allen Breuer	09/17	Rich Harwood
	Dave LaBare	09/18	Kaylee Hutchison
09/05	Jennifer Matti	09/19	Jason Engler
	Adam Lyons		Sage Grover
09/06	Tina Erickson	09/20	Mike Kobler
09/07	Tony Crudele	09/21	Jay Schmidt
	Tim Rahman		Amber Kingsley
09/08	Cameron Bluhm		Joseph Sackreiter
	Kyle Hanson	09/22	Kelly Nesler
09/09	Les Berning	09/23	Adalyn Castle
	Joanne Melbostad	09/24	Levi Folkert
09/11	Tami Sawyer		Owen Wilhelmson
	Conner Ramthun	09/25	Mindy Drenckhahn
09/12	Nathen Nesler		Nicole Engler
	Raelin Ellinghuysen	09/26	Dawn Breuer
	Addison Grant	09/29	Dar Weaver
09/13	Jennifer Gusa		Brooklyn Young
	Andrea Fick	09/30	Blake Hassig
09/14	Jason Patzer		Rebecca Hassig
09/15	Ava LeVan		Angie Beckel
09/15	Pat Hanson-Haack		

Anniversaries

09/03	Cheryl & Steve Schneider	09/16	Nate & Alicia Pfeilsticker
09/07	Scott & Kathy Rohlik	09/17	Gary & Linda Tesmer
	Mike & Kathy Sveen	09/18	Stan & Donna Tesch
09/08	Neil & Dar Weaver	09/20	Les & Carla Berning
09/09	Kurt & Trisha Schumacher		Ryan & Andrea Castle
	Jason & Kelly Engler	09/21	Terry & Lonnie Yust
09/10	Dan & Linda Schmitz		Wayne & Michelle Wendt
09/13	Jason & Erin Bluhm	09/23	Bob & Barb Petit
	Quintin & Sarah Wilhelmson	09/26	Dave & Pat Haack
09/15	Lynn & Eugene Eversman		John & Jane Potter
	Nate & Kelly Nesler		Mark & Laurie Timm

**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

**God doesn't call the qualified.
He qualifies the called.**

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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 October 2018 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21.