

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff



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GOOD SHEPHERD BUDGET MEETING

On **Sunday, January 13th at 9:15 a.m.**, there will be a Congregational Informational Meeting to discuss the budget. Please plan on attending.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual **Congregational meeting** will be held on **Sunday, January 27th**. 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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! As we enter 2019 we do so during the 12 days of Christmas. Christmas and New Year's falling in the same time period gives us an opportunity to step back and gain some perspective on what it means that God so loved this world that He sent His only Son. Here's an excerpt with some perspective from the Appolo 8 Christmas Day Sermon:

For the first three orbits the capsule was positioned so that the astronauts were flying backwards, with its windows angled downward. The landscape below was fascinating, and yet also barren and cold. On the fourth orbit, Commander Borman rolled the capsule just as the earth became visible, rising over the moon's horizon.

"Look at that picture over there!" Bill Anders exclaimed, "It's the Earth coming up. Wow that's pretty!"

Anders took a black and white photo, before urging Lovell to get him some color film. The picture he took would become an iconic image, and perhaps the most important product of their mission: Earthrise, as seen from the moon.

We've all seen it – or one of its successors. That image of the earth as a blue green marble swathed in cloud against a jet-black sky. You can see familiar outlines of continents, the great seas, vast deserts, golden plains, and snow covered peaks. You can even see cities towns and villages – the lights at night of a million light bulbs and two million cooking fires, hinting at civilization and settlement below. What you can't see, of course, are the borders. There is no USSR and America. No black and white. No Republicans and Democrats. No Christian and Muslim. Just one world. One humanity. One hope.

"The vast loneliness up here on the moon is awe inspiring. It makes you realize just what you have back there on earth." Lovell said.

It took a human being behind the camera in outer space to see the world anew. It seems to me something similar happened that first Christmas.

All those great figures of Biblical history, all the words they shared, they just couldn't get God's love in focus. The image was grainy, blurred by human sin. They couldn't understand. So a miracle happens at Christmas: The Word, John writes, becomes flesh. When we could not cross the chasm, when division seemed eternal, God did the impossible, the unthinkable, the miraculous: God becomes one with us. In Jesus God looked at us through human eyes.

And it was good.

"God saw that the earth was good." Captain Borman read in the broadcast. He continued: "And from the crew of Appollo 8, we close with good night, good, luck Merry Christmas. May God bless you all.

May God bless us and this whole world that God created and came to save!

In Christ,
Pastor Krista

GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

CARE PACKAGE SUNDAY: JANUARY 27TH AT 9:15 AM

Who doesn't like to give or receive a box full of love? Join us on January 27th to share God's love through care packages for Good Shepherd's post high school youth and military. We will work together making Valentines, snack mix, 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. Once again Thrivent will be sponsoring the shipping costs!

TREATS FOR 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 music room. Then come help pack on **January 27th at 9:15 am!**

TWINS GAME

Jay Schmidt has reserved tickets to a Twins game on Tuesday, June 18th at 7:00, vs Boston Red Sox. Jay says this should be a good game, so put the date on your calendar. Ticket/ride information will be made available at a later date.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

WORK DAYS FOR MILESTONE BLANKETS

Spend a cold winter day **Friday, January 4th** 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 Group will meet on **January 16th** to talk about *The Bookshop on the Corner* by Jenny Colgan. Copies of the book are in the music room. If you take a book, please check it out. **Book discussions are the THIRD Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm.**

Please bring a gently used book wrapped to share at our January meeting and we will have a little party.

Our February book is *The Room* by Emma Donoghue. A book bag will be available.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

Grades 9-12

Chicago Service Trip -- July 28th - August 2nd, 2019

This summer Good Shepherd will be sending a group of youth to serve and learn in Chicago. Often this is one of the most meaningful for our youth. We will see the world through different eyes when we return. We do have space if someone else would like to come. Contact Carole Joyce as soon as possible to reserve your spot.

January Ski Trip-January 21st

All high school and middle school youth are invited to a fun ski day at Coffee Mill on January 21st. Adult leaders are needed too! Please contact Carole Joyce to reserve a ride, to help and to drive. Children accompanied by parents are invited to come too. We will have a fun day on the slopes (or in the lodge where Carole will be hanging out)!

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 20th. Join us for wonderful fellowship. Thank you to the congregation for your support of high school ministry.

EDUCATION

JANUARY ADULT EDUCATION – 9:30 A.M. SUNDAY MORNINGS

Starting January 6th we will be studying the book of Daniel. The book of Daniel takes place during the Babylonian exile. Daniel and three other young people are forced to leave Jerusalem and live in Babylon. In the first half of the book we find the famous stories at Daniel in the Lion's Den and the story of the 3 Men and the Fiery Furnace. The second half of the book includes visions about what many think are the end times. Throughout the book we discover that when human kingdoms forget God they become less than human and become like wild beasts. However, in the end God ultimately reigns and hope and patience is encouraged. Come join us as we read through the book and discuss what's in the book as well as what we might learn from these writing for us today.

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 through "Out of the Box Christmas". What a gift to have you share the Christmas story in this meaningful way. Thank you to directors Pastor Krista and Linda Theisen. Thanks to all who learned lines and music. Thanks to Karen Anderson for piano, Tom Anderson, Jason Bluhm, Cameron Bluhm and Nate Pfeilsticker for set up and sound. Thanks to Karen Jurgenson and Franny Schwantz for hospitality, Erin Bluhm for photos, Lynn Eversman for bulletins, and Karla Appel and Kareen Bigalk for cleanup. A special thanks to Sherry Tuxen and Immanuel Lutheran for hosting the program at the Community Life Center. Thank you!

Photos are available on the Good Shepherd Facebook page and website. We were unable to make a video recording this year.

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Parents & Infants, 2 & 3 Year Olds (not in Sunday School): Sunday, January 13th at 9:15 am

We want to remember your child's baptism in worship on January 13th. 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!

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

Looking ahead to February:

Second Grade: “What’s Fair?” – February 3rd and 10th at 9:15 am

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 February 3rd and 10th

Lord’s Prayer: February 17th and 24th at 9:15 am

This class is for all Kindergarteners and their parents. Mark your calendar now. Watch for more details.

EDUCATION MEETIN ON JANUARY 15th

The Education team will meet on **January 15th at 7:00 pm**. Teachers and parents and anyone interested in Good Shepherd’s education ministry are invited. Check with Karla Appel or Carole Joyce for location.

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

January 6 – Regular Schedule & Baptism Beach Party (families of children under age 3)

January 13 – Regular Schedule

TIF – 2nd Grade

Baptism Beach Party

January 20 – Regular Schedule

TIF – 2nd Grade

January 27 – All Ages – Pack Care Packages

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).

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS

Sharing Tree

Once again THANKS for your generosity in giving to the Sharing Tree. Bonnie McMillin reported that the Plainview-Elgin Food Shelf received \$1420 in gift cards and the family we were helping out will receive \$300 in cash and \$100 in gift cards. This truly will make a better Christmas for many people.

Lights for Life Luminaries

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 Keesely, Larissa Jurgenson, Kaylee Hutchison, Alese Ihrke, Cameron Bluhm, and Rachel Ferkin 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 for providing the lefse this year.

PEM CHOIR BOOSTER CLUB SHOE DRIVE

PEM Choir Booster Club is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser for our PEM High School Branson Trip. Money collected will benefit the choir students' attendance at a 4 day, 3 night trip to Branson, MO in March. During this trip, our students will receive musical training, attend multiple concerts, and perform in two shows.

YOU can help support the choir by donating every pair of gently worn, used or new shoes that are unused in your closet! Ask friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to donate too! Shoes can be dropped off at church in the box in the Music Room.

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
	Emma LeVan			Alysha Mohs
01/15	Joe Crudele			

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

**Knowledge is learning something new every day.
Wisdom is letting go of something every day.**

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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 2019 Newsletter is

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22.