

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)

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
Office Hours: Vary
Email: carole35@charter.net

LENT 2019

Ash Wednesday Worship March 6 – 7:00 p.m.

Service of Worship with
Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Communion

Lenten devotions for adults will be available in the music room.
Please take one for your Lenten journey.
A resource for families will be available too.

All Wednesdays – Soup supper starting at 5:00 p.m.

Other Wednesdays in Lent – 7:00 PM That You May Have Life Service

March 13 – Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
March 20 – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
March 27 – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
April 3 – Philippians 3:4b-14
April 10 – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday	April 14, 8:00 & 10:30 AM Between Services: Palm Sunday Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt
Maundy Thursday	April 18, 7:00 PM
Good Friday	April 19, 7:00 PM
Easter Sunday	April 21, 8:00 & 10:30 AM Christ is Risen!

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PASTOR'S NOTE

Winter got you down?
Tired of the cold?
Does the thought of more snow make your heart sink?

Me too. There's a certain weariness that builds over the months of winter, especially a winter like this one.

Are you ready for warmer temps and more sunshine?
Do you look forward to being outside without needing to wear a coat?
Is there a smile on your face as you make plans for spring and summer activities?

As the weariness of winter builds, the anticipation and excitement for spring grows. Imagine approaching the kingdom of God in the same way. What if we longed for the fullness of God's kingdom here on earth like we long for spring after a long winter? What if the weariness of injustice and hatred in this world, lead us to long for and work for the grace and love of God's kingdom here on earth? What if when we prayed the Lord's Prayer and the words, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" we did so with the earnestness we have for spring?

On Ash Wednesday, March 6th, we enter the season of Lent. The season of Lent is a longing for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and an invitation into the fullness of God's kingdom in the present. In the northern hemisphere the church's season of Lent coincides with our season of spring, allowing us to experience nature's transition from death and decay to the new life of spring. As we see these signs of change happening around us, we can use these as reminders to look for and lean into the springtime of God's grace and being children of the resurrection.

As we long for the new life of another spring and the arrival of Easter's celebration of resurrected life in Jesus Christ we need each other. When we are together we can share the glimpses of this new life and encourage one another to live our lives in this kingdom that God gives us. During the season of Lent we add into our lives soup suppers and Wednesday worship. Together we are better able to see the new signs of life and grace that are a part of God's kingdom to come. Together we are better able to lift ourselves above the weariness of injustice and hatred in the world. Together we are better able to encourage one another that the love and grace of God's kingdom does indeed come.

We may get weary at times, but the season of spring always comes because God is faithful, and Easter comes because God is faithful, and the fullness of God's kingdom comes because God is faithful. Join us during the season of Lent as we encourage one another.

In Christ,
Pastor Krista

CONGREGATION NEWS

CHURCH COUNCIL

Outgoing Council Members

On behalf of the Good Shepherd congregation, we want to thank our outgoing council members Cindy Fuerstneau and Steve Tradup 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 LaVonne Beck, Kathy Sukalski and Sue Tangen! 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
LaVonne Beck	Secretary	lavonnebeck@gmail.com
Tom Anderson	Treasurer & Finance	tom.plainviewfbm@embarqmail.com
Kathy Sukalski	Congregational Life/Youth	sukalskika@gmail.com
Karla Appel	Education	appel.karla@mayo.edu
Sibyl Mason	Missions & Stewardship	sibylm12@gmail.com
Joe Suntken	Property	jsuntken@gmail.com
	Worship & Music	
Wayne Miller	At Large	ellenmiller63@gmail.com
Sue Tangen	At Large	smt812@yahoo.com

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

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Don't forget to designate your Choice dollars for 2018 to the nonprofit of your choice. Good Shepherd is on this list and uses these dollars as scholarships for our students attending a Lutheran college. **Choice dollars need to be directed by March 31st**. Contact Jake Thompson at 534-3411 if you have questions or need assistance.

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!
- We are looking for leadership to get the sermons put on YouTube and the website. Contact Pastor Krista or Carole Joyce for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH NEWS

BOOK GROUP IN MARCH

The March book is *Stella Bain* by Anita Shreve. A library book bag is reserved so you can pick up books in the church office any time. Discussion will be **Wednesday, March 20th at 7:25 pm**. Note the time difference because of soup supper and Lenten worship. We will also talk about last month's book *Room* by Emma Donoghue.

The April book is *Crimes Against a Book Club* by Kathy Cooperman. A library book bag will be in the church office.

PALM SUNDAY: EDUCATION HOUR EASTER EGG HUNT & BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 14th, 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 too. Palm Sunday worship will be at 8:00 am and 10:30 am as usual.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Coffee Shop is March 17th

Service Nights: Wednesdays March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th 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.

MILESTONES

Baptisms

Blessings to Grace Debra Wolf, who was baptized on February 10, 2019. Grace is the daughter of Jaime and Sarah Wolf.

Loss of Loved Ones: Our sympathies go out to:

Linda Theisen and her family for the loss of Linda's father, Bob Klein, who passed away on Friday, January 25th.

Stacy Hutchison and her family for the loss of Stacy's father, David Bakken, who passed away on Saturday, January 26th.

Sara Dick and her family for the loss of Sara's grandmother, Dorothy Gartzke, who passed away in February.

EDUCATION NEWS

TOGETHER IN FAITH FOR 4TH GRADERS & PARENTS

Sunday, March 3rd & 10th 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 at a later date.

EDUCATION MEETING

There will be an Education meeting on **Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 pm at Kim's in Plainview**. Topics to be covered are VBS, building update, Palm Sunday, and end of the Sunday school year.

AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study will meet on **March 5th at 1:00 pm**. at church.

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, April 18th 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	April 7	2:00 - 4:00 PM
Thursday	April 11	3:30 - 5:30 PM

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, April 18th**. 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 ...

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

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 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.)

See the options and register at 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 24th and we will carpool together. Sign up by mid-March to make sure there is space.

- 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.

VBS 2019

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 2019 which will be held June 10-13 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.

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

We will continue studying the book of Daniel. This book 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.

EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED ...

**Save the Dates for VBS 2019:
Monday - Thursday, June 10-13
6:00 - 7:45 PM
Meal Served Between 5:25 – 5:50 PM**

Back by popular demand, a simple meal served between 5:25 - 5:50 pm. No more racing to feed your family before coming. Come and eat together before participating in VBS.

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.

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.

Noisy Offerings:

January's noisy offering went to Good Earth Village. A check for \$106.11 was sent to GEV.

February's noisy offering went to the Ronald McDonald House. They received a check for \$201.84.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

03/02	Erin Bluhm	03/17	Gary Melbostad
	Jordyn Anderson	03/19	Bonnie McMillin
03/04	Ellen Miller	03/20	Randy Wendt
03/05	Larissa Jurgenson	03/21	Kathy Sukalski
03/06	Owen Johnson	03/23	Carson Rahman
	Brady Wehrs	03/24	Marc Anderson
	Harper Schneider		Joe Suntken
03/07	Jackie Welti	03/25	Jan Sackreiter
03/10	Diane Fick		Mason Rahman
03/11	Jayden Munsch		Matt Dick
	Austin Engler	03/26	Craig Beck
03/12	Jacob Suntken	03/27	Tina Wangen
03/13	Bob Shanks	03/28	Roger Rettmann
	Jason Melbostad		Jesalynn Bluhm
03/14	Lukas Klennert	03/29	Marget Christison
03/15	Michelle Wendt	03/30	Khloe Peter
	Tara Ellinghuysen		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

**Faith is not about everything turning out OK.
Faith is about being OK no matter how things turn out.**

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PO Box 355
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Address Service Requested
Issue 217, 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 2019 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, MARCH 22.