

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff



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LENT 2019

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

April 3rd and April 10th

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

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT – APRIL 14

Breakfast Served 8:30 - 10:15 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 have seen the Lord!”

If Mary Magdalene were to share her faith story that's one of the things she would share: “I have seen the Lord.” Mary Magdalene is one of the people who saw the risen Christ, and not only did she see him, but she had a conversation with him, and he called her by name.

When we think of someone sharing his or her faith story, we may think of moments like Mary's and having a specific moment in time that you can point to when you saw Jesus or you heard God talking to you. We often equate with certainty, joy, and everything working out all right, but that's not how every faith story unfolds. In fact, Mary Magdalene's faith story isn't completely filled with certainty, joy, and everything working out all right.

For Mary Magdalene that first Easter Sunday is filled with grief, panic, and people (the disciples) who question her faith. With Jesus' death, Mary's world collapsed and like other mourners she takes part in the custom of her day by going to Jesus' grave to pay her respects by anointing Jesus' lifeless body. At the tomb Mary encounters the impossible and improbable. The tomb is empty. The body is gone. Grief quickly changes to panic at the thought that someone has stolen Jesus' body. Her mind can't compute the fact that the reason Jesus isn't there is because he is alive. Even though Mary sees the best things she could possibly see, an empty tomb, she doesn't shout “Alleluia.” She doesn't exclaim “Jesus is risen.” Instead Mary sees the empty tomb and assumes the worst: someone has stolen the body.

Many of our life stories and faith stories include times when we have assumed the worst, when we have been filled with fear, doubt and even panic. Like Mary, our stories are not always filled with joy and alleluias. And yet even when our lives are overcome by fear and doubt or panic and sorrow, God is still at work in our lives. God in Jesus reaches out to Mary and reveal his presence. And God is at work in our lives, reaching out to us and revealing his presence. Sometimes it's through a feeling of peace and calm. Other times it's an experience that we just can't quite put into words. Some times it's through the words and actions of another person that God's living presence is made known to us.

God is at work in each of our lives, but what that looks like differs from person to person. During the season of Lent we have had different congregation members share parts of their faith story with the confirmation students. We do this as a way to help the students discover that God's presence in a person's life takes on many different shapes and forms. Sometimes people may think that their own faith story is lacking because it's not as dramatic as Mary Magdalene's, but each of our stories and experiences are important to God because each one of us is important to God. As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection this year know that Jesus was raised from the dead for you and that is part of your story.

God's peace,
Pastor Krista

CONGREGATION NEWS

EASTER FLOWERS

It is time to order Easter flowers to decorate our church altar. We will have Easter lilies or spring mums available. **They are \$8.00 each.** The envelopes and container to put them in are on the small table in the music room. **Orders, along with payment, are due on or before April 8th.** If you have questions please see Sue Tangen. Thank you!

PALM SUNDAY: EDUCATION HOUR EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST APRIL 14

Sunday, April 14, 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 at the church. **Palm Sunday worship will be at 8:00 am and 10:30 am as usual.**

Candy for the Egg Hunt: If you would like to bring candy to contribute to the egg hunt, please bring it to church by 9:15 am on Sunday, April 7!

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

The Service of "Affirmation of Baptism", also known as "**Confirmation**", will take place on **Sunday, May 5 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.** **Confirmation pictures** will be taken in the sanctuary that morning from **9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**

Confirmands will share their faith statements with their parents, peers, and other caring adults at the **confirmation banquet on Wednesday, May 1.** We will have a **meal together at 6:00 p.m.** The evening is always a highlight of the Confirmation year. Council leaders, family and all who want to support them are encouraged to come too.

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

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

We have an awesome group of seven youth who are traveling to Chicago to serve in the city July 28 - August 2 along with Carole Joyce and one other leader. The organization CSM stands for **CITY | SERVICE | MISSION** -- an effective urban ministry experience that transforms lives, influences churches and communities, and honors Christ. We go as an outreach of Good Shepherd's ministry serving the wider world. Talk to Carole or Pastor if you know of an adult or young adult male who might want to be a leader.

High School Learning: Wednesday, April 10th at 7:30 pm we will explore the topics of: Working Together and Walking in Others' Shoes.

End of Year Adventure: Mark your calendar for the end of the year High School adventure! On **May 8** we will go out to eat at a local owned ethnic restaurant in Rochester. The group will decide where at our April meeting. We will **meet at Good Shepherd at 6:00 or 6:30** and ride together. Talk to Carole to add your suggestions to the list: Nupa - Mediterranean, Pho Chou - Vietnamese, or Taqueria El Sueno - Mexican.

BOOK GROUP IN APRIL

Join us on **Wednesday, April 17th at 6:30 pm** to talk about *Crimes Against a Book Club* by Kathy Cooperman. New book lovers are always welcome, so jump in to read it if the topic interests you! All are welcome. A book bag is in the music room and there is plenty of time to get it read. Start bringing ideas of what you would like to read next year. The year is just flying by!

Our May book is called *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova. This will trigger an interesting discussion of Alzheimer's and memory loss. We do not have a book bag, so you will have to reserve it from the Plainview or SELCO library. We do have a copy being shared by Good Shepherd members. Ask Carole Joyce to get on the list to read those copies. Discussion will be May 15th.

MILESTONES

Loss of Loved One

Our sympathies go out to Don Weinrich and his family for the loss of Don's father, Bob Weinrich, who passed away on Sunday, March 3, 2019.

EDUCATION

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

Our Tuesday afternoon Bible study group will meet on **April 2nd at 1:00 p.m.** here at Church. Then on **April 9th at 1:00 p.m.** anyone who is available will meet at **Doris Johnson's home** to assemble jelly bean bags for Easter Sunday.

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 18 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	11:30 AM - 1:30 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 18.** 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.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education classes will meet on Sundays, April 7th and April 28th in the sanctuary. On April 7th we will discuss topics for next year and on April 28th we will meet with Pastor Nicole (formerly known as Vicar Nicole) to hear about her transition from vicar to pastor.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

Sign Up **now** to participate in these summer activities:

(See below for more details and how to register.)

At Good Shepherd:

1. VBS for age 3 through 4th graders: **June 10 - 13 from 6:00 - 7:45 PM**
Meals served from 5:25 - 5:50 PM for families and the whole community.
2. Super Hero Summer Service Days for 6th - 9th grade

At Good Earth Village Bible Camp

3. Adventure Day with Carole Joyce on **Wednesday, July 24**
4. A week or partial week at Good Earth Village. The church will give everyone a partial scholarship.

SUPER HERO SERVICE

Last summer our 6th-9th graders had a blast serving in the Plainview community. We stretched our faith as we helped and had fun together. We will have Super Hero Days on the Wednesdays in June: 6, 13, and 20 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Our adventures may include service and fishing at Carly State Park, helping at the Food Shelf, BINGO at the nursing home, making robots for VBS, helping at the Library, building faith chests... Please share service ideas with Carole Joyce. If you know of a community member we could help, let us know.

We need 2 things to make this happen.

1. Most Important — awesome youth to participate (you can participate around sports and appointments.)
2. A few caring adults to spend a day driving OR help finalize project ideas.

Please contact Carole Joyce or Pastor Krista if interested.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

VBS 2019:

SIGN UP NOW
MONDAY - THURSDAY, JUNE 10-13
6:00 - 7:45 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.

For children currently age 3 through 3rd grade
Come with a caring adult (if possible).

- 4th graders 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.

Registration is open now through May 15th. Everyone is welcome, so share the news and invite a friend, neighbor, or family member. We will have a blast exploring how Jesus rescues and cares for us.

Registration forms can be found on Good Shepherd's website www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org or in the church music room and should be returned to the church office. One child per form please.

A \$10 donation per child or \$20 per family is encouraged but not required.

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

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are currently looking for youth and adult leaders to help with VBS 2019

- June 10-13 from 6:00 - 7:45 pm. Any students currently in 4th grade and older are welcome to volunteer also.
- Please contact Carole Joyce via email at carole35@charter.net to rsvp or sign up on the "Count Me In" form in Sunday's bulletin. You won't want to miss out on the fun and fellowship, so sign up to participate or help today!
- Help with crafts, guiding a small group, snacks, games, skits, music, and possibly baby holding.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

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. 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 of 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 24 and we will carpool together. Sign up soon 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.

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 24**. The camp runs from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with lunch provided. You pay a deposit of \$30 and Good Shepherd will pay the rest because it is such a great experience! Carole Joyce 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, please sign up on-line at goodearthvillage.org and let us know in the office that you did. If you have any questions, please contact Carole Joyce carole35@charter.net or 269-9374.

FINANCE

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

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Any Good Shepherd member that will be attending a Lutheran college next year can apply for a scholarship through church. Scholarship forms are available in the church office. **Deadline is May 7.** Money for these scholarships comes from Thrivent Choice dollars. Please see Jake Thompson or Tom Anderson if you have questions

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Thanks to all who are contributing to the Lenten offerings which are going to the PEM Food Shelf. Thanks to you, many families will have food on their plates this spring.

Thanks to Lenten worship cantors:

Larissa Jurgenson, Kaylee Hutchison, Rachel Ferkin, Cameron Bluhm and Alese Ihrke.

Thanks to Lenten worship accompanist:

Gloria Keseley

A shout out goes to the many Good Shepherd members who contributed in a variety of ways to the Bulldog Nation Foundation fundraiser. This event supports the youth of the community!

Thanks to the many people who spent hours shoveling Good Shepherd's roof. Thanks to these others who shoveled sidewalks and cleaned the parking lot during the LONG winter: Joe Suntken, Travis Ihrke, and Mark Jurgenson.

Our March noisy offering, plus our Lenten service offerings, are given to the Plainview-Elgin Food Shelf each year. Through March 25, we have collected \$1654.63, which will be given to the Food Shelf this month so it goes towards their March campaign totals. Another check will be given to them in April when Lent is over.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

04/01	Carol Goergen-Fenske	04/18	Tyler Engler
	Dylan Koepsell	04/20	Mitchell Breuer
04/02	Stacy Hutchison		John Wehrs
	Camryn Nesler	04/21	Joshua LaBare
04/07	Linda Theisen	04/22	Beau Lyons
04/08	Leah King	04/23	Kevin Gudmundson
	Caroline King		Xander Henderson
04/09	Kathy Rohlik	04/25	Jeanne Dunn
	Kent Kingsley	04/26	Ben Peter
	Kareen Bigalk		Katy Johnson
	Dylon Flattum		Sarah Wolf
04/10	Bob Dunn	04/27	Michelle Gudmundson
	Keith Fuerstneau		Char Balcome
04/12	Joe Ulwelling		Jen Peter
04/13	Doris Johnson	04/29	Steve Sawyer
	Dustin Wehrs		Lily Bartz
04/14	MaKenzie Rau		Shannon Ramthun
04/16	Tanner Goergen	04/30	Kay Rasmussen
04/17	Braden Melbostad		Sarah Hassig
	Paislee Nesler		

Anniversaries

04/05	Paul & Karla Appel	04/24	Al & Franny Schwantz
04/06	Jim & Sibyl Mason		Thor & Tina Erickson
04/22	Fran & Sheila Grover		Bryce & Angie Beckel
	Roger & Cindy Rettmann		

*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

The key to Heaven was hung on a nail.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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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 May 2019 Newsletter is

MONDAY, APRIL 22.