

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*The Shepherd's Staff*



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## UPCOMING EVENTS!

Although we have a whole month of summer left, the leadership at Good Shepherd is busy making plans for the fall program year. Watch for the many exciting education opportunities this year. Mark your calendars NOW for the following upcoming events!

<b>Blessing of Backpacks</b>	<b>Wed. Aug. 28 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Confirmation Orientation</b>	<b>Wed. Sept. 4 6:00 pm</b>
<b>(7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents)</b>	
<b>Dedication Sunday Worship</b>	<b>Sun. Sept. 8 10:30 am</b>
<b>Dedication Sunday Meal and Fellowship</b>	<b>Sun. Sept. 8 12:00 pm</b>
<b>Bedtime Bible Stories</b>	<b>Wed. Sept. 11 6:00 pm</b>
<b>(for 3-year olds and parents)</b>	
<b>Sunday School Teacher Meeting</b>	<b>Wed. Sept. 11 7:00 pm</b>
<b>First Day of Sunday School and</b>	<b>Sun. Sept. 15 9:15 am</b>
<b>Parents Meeting</b>	
<b>Third Graders Receive Bibles</b>	<b>Sun. Sept. 15 10:30 am</b>
<b>Senior High Youth &amp; Parents Ice Cream</b>	<b>Wed. Sept. 25 7:30 pm</b>
<b>Social Kick-Off</b>	

### **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS – WED., AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>**

All children, youth, and college students are invited to bring their backpacks to church on **Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** for a “Blessing of the Backpacks”. Invite your classmates to join us at Good Shepherd and bring their backpacks for a special back to school blessing.

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## PASTOR'S NOTE

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” - Jesus – Matthew 19:14

These are some of the most welcoming and challenging words that Jesus ever said. We love the idea of children being fully welcomed into the ministries of church including worship. We love seeing children sing in church and participate in the children's sermon. We love being part of a baptism every time a child is baptized. We do truly love these things, and these are the times and events where it's easy to welcome the children and easy for parents to bring their children to church.

There are other times when it's not so easy or when we as parents worry if others truly want our children in church. When my daughter was born my husband and I were serving as co-pastors of five congregations. For the first four years of our daughter's life she worshipped twice every Sunday (in 2 different churches) and 3 times on Easter. In one of those first few months after she was born, while I was reading scripture and then preaching, and while my daughter was with one of her church grandmas, she cried. In fact it would be more accurate to say she screamed. She screamed during the first lesson. She screamed during the Psalm. She screamed during the second lesson. She screamed during the Gospel reading. She screamed during the entire length of the sermon and through most of the singing of the hymn after the sermon. I'm not sure how anyone could have gotten anything out of that sermon that day. I should also add that all of this happened at a small, rural congregation with probably 30 people or less in worship and where the average age was somewhere around 70. I was absolutely mortified. As a mom, I was sure my daughter screaming was all my fault. As a pastor and a mom, I was sure I was doubly to blame for my daughter's awful behavior at only a few months of age. After the service while I was shaking hands with people, I exchanged the usual "good morning" greeting for "I'm so sorry." To my surprise no one was upset. In fact, a number of people went out of their way to offer encouragement. One shared, "I'm so glad you bring your daughter with you." Another said "A child crying is a sign of life in the church." Another person added, "We need that here." As these statements were shared, a number of people jumped in to offer their assurance as well. I wish I could say that was the only time my daughter ever cried in church, but of course it wasn't. Thank goodness I was blessed with the words of encouragement from others that helped me here Jesus' words, "Let the little children come."

When my son was a few years old he discovered something that he could do at church that his pastor – mother didn't much care for. He discovered that he could wiggle his way out of the arms of the person he was sitting with and crawl back and forth under a row of chairs. He also enjoyed pausing to look directly at me and give me a knowing smile that to me said, "You can't do anything about this." My son particularly liked to do this activity during the sermon. The church I was serving at this time was in Massachusetts: a mission start congregation worshipping about 80 people on a Sunday with many young people and families. When I interviewed with the church leadership, I shared that I had two young children and a husband who was also a pastor and I would need people who were willing to be with my children in worship. Before I could even finish my request for help with my children during worship, one member jumped in to say "Don't worry. We'll take care of it." As I looked around the room everyone was nodding in agreement. I often wondered as my son acted out in church, if I would still be able to find people who would want him to join their family for worship, but every Sunday he was welcomed. Through their actions of

## PASTOR'S NOTE CONTINUED ...

asking for my son to sit with them in worship and having far more patience than I do, I heard Jesus words, "Let the little children come to me."

I grew up thinking those children who came to Jesus on that day were probably perfect, but realistically when I read through the Bible which includes real, non-perfect people, those kids probably included some who were crying and some who were acting out and others whose behavior was less than ideal. Yet, for Jesus it didn't matter. For Jesus the most important thing was to be together, and I think that's still important: for the family of God of all ages to be together in worship.

When children are present things are often a little noisier and messier, and children often see things we don't see or see things in a different way. When children are around our priorities are a little bit different. In fact, we often focus less on ourselves and more on others. Children change things, and apparently Jesus knows and wants us to know that change is a good thing. In fact it's something we as a people of faith need because children have something to teach us about receiving God's kingdom. From Mark 10:15 we hear Jesus' words, "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." What if every child has something to teach us about receiving and experiencing God's kingdom? The only way we're going to learn is by welcoming the children so they can help us.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to welcome the children and encourage the parents!

In Christ,  
Pastor Krista

# CONGREGATION NEWS

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who has helped and contributed to the wonderful new expansion and renovations at church!!! The new Gathering Space, kitchen and offices are already being enjoyed by staff and congregation members. This fall we look forward to using the kitchen even more and having new Sunday school rooms available. The congregation's generosity has helped to make all of this possible. We will be closing on our loan in August. While we were approved for a million dollar loan, right now we are looking at closing the loan at \$840,000. If you have considered an additional gift beyond your pledge and have the resources available at this time, it would make a difference in our monthly payments for any additional gifts to come in on or before August 4<sup>th</sup> (thereby lowering our total loan amount). For example, if we raise an additional \$40,000 before we close, along with not paying as much total in interest on the loan, our loan payments would drop by over \$200/month. Please note that any additional gift helps and this would be in addition to your previous pledge or usual monthly giving (since we count on these regular gifts for monthly payments on the loan).

## **BUILDING PROJECT SUMMARY**

**25-JUL-19**

(Data includes all financials from 01/01/2018 – 07/15/2019)

<b>Building Investment - YTD</b>	<b>\$ 1,168,074</b>	
<b>Anticipated Additional Cost</b> (Due August 7 <sup>th</sup> to MIF)	<b>\$ 52,438</b>	
<b>Anticipated New Bldg Investment</b>	<b>\$ 1,220,512</b>	
<b>Less Cash applied to capital purchase</b>	<b>\$ 362,871</b>	
<b>Current Loan Amount</b>	<b>\$ 805,203</b>	
<b>Anticipated Additional Cost</b>	<b>\$ 52,438</b>	
<b>Anticipated Total Loan</b>	<b>\$ 857,641</b>	
<b>Loan Payment Amount</b>	<b>\$ 4,522</b>	(Monthly Estimated)
<b>Debt Reduction Contribution</b>	<b>\$ 16,000</b>	
<b>Reduce Loan to \$840,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,433</b>	(Monthly Estimated)
<b>Reduce Loan to \$800,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,222</b>	(Monthly Estimated)
<b>Previous Loan Monthly Payment Amt.</b>	<b>\$ 3,292</b>	

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

## SUMMER READING

Here is a list of what the Good Shepherd Book Group will read for the next program year. If you are looking for a book to read this summer, try these. Then talk about it with other Good Shepherd book lovers at **6:30 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.** All are invited!

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOOK TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>
September 18	<i>Tattoo Artist of Auschwitz</i>	Heather Morris
October 9 (or 23 MEA)	* <i>My Grandmother Asked Me to Say She's Sorry</i>	Fredrick Backman
November 13 (because of Thanksgiving)	* <i>Plague of Doves</i>	Louise Erdrich
December 18 (or 11)	<i>We Are Displaced</i>	Malala Yousafzai
January 15	* <i>Never Let Me Go</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro
February 19	* <i>Bean Trees</i>	Barbara Kingsolver
March 18	* <i>The Life We Bury</i>	Allen Eskens
April 15	* <i>Blue Notebook</i>	James Levine
May 13 (or 20)	<i>The Story of Arthur Trulove</i>	Elizabeth Berg

\*Library book bag.

## MILESTONES MINISTRY

### Baptism

Blessings to Olivia Marie Bianchi, who was baptized on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Olivia is the daughter of Tom and Ashley Bianchi.

Blessings to Eli Benjamin Mohs, who was baptized on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Eli is the son of Ben and Alysha Mohs.

Blessings to Scarlett Lynn Burdick, who was baptized on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Scarlett is the daughter of Kurt & Kristi Burdick.

Blessings to Wesley Craig Chastek, who was baptized on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Wesley is the son of Craig and Mikayla Chastek.

Blessings to Maverick Ron Tibor, who was baptized on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Maverick is the son of Eric and Dreena Tibor..

Blessings to Audrey Jo Schultz, who was baptized on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Audrey is the daughter of Dan Schultz and Emily Freiburg..

### Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new members who were received into the Good Shepherd family during the month of June: Tom, Ashley, & Olivia Bianchi, Craig, Mikayla & Wesley Chastek, Verdon & Renee Hasleiet, Cory & Samantha Kroening & Autumn & Nolan Bartsch, and Tom Overlie and Kevin Larson.

# EDUCATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

It's time to register for Sunday school! We will need **ALL** children to be registered **prior** to attending the first day of class on **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**. All children who are 3 years old (by September 1<sup>st</sup>) through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to sign up. To help with the scheduling process, we would appreciate **all forms be turned in by August 31<sup>st</sup>**. You can 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.

*Only one child per form please.* Thank you for your help as we continue updating our policies to help keep our children safe!

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

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE – YOU ARE NEEDED!

Do you love children and youth? Do you want to learn more about the Bible? Are you willing to wonder about faith in your life? If so, teaching, helping with Sunday school OR mentoring with Confirmation might be just what God is calling you to do. You are invited to be a caring adult in the lives of our children and youth.

The following Sunday school classes need people to help team teach: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. **Each class will have more than one teacher so you have flexibility and can be gone or attend adult classes on the other weeks.** High school students who would like to help or teach are welcome too.

We always need Sunday school helpers and substitutes as well. Contact Carole Joyce at 269-9374 or [carole35@charter.net](mailto:carole35@charter.net) or the church office if you have questions or would like to serve. Remember we may set out to serve, but it is the kids who teach us and help us to grow!

## 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

**Confirmation Kick-Off will be Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade **students and parents** will gather at 6:00 p.m. for a meal. We will order in a main dish and ask you to contribute toward the cost. **Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and a beverage.** We will look ahead at our year together.

## **EDUCATION CONTINUED ...**

### **BEDTIME BIBLE STORY NIGHT FOR 3-YEAR OLDS AND PARENTS:** **(SEPTEMBER 11 @ 6:00 P.M.)**

Children who turn 3 by September 1<sup>st</sup> and their parents are invited to get ready for starting Sunday school. **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00 pm** will kick-off the next step in your faith journey with Bedtime Bible story night.

Students are encouraged to come in pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal and “blankie”. We will enjoy a bedtime Bible story and become familiar with your Sunday school classroom, have a treat, and tour the church. (This will prepare the children to begin Sunday school this fall on September 15<sup>th</sup> when activities will begin for parents and children at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.)

All students also will be presented with their own Beginner's Bible that evening. The Beginner's Bible is a wonderful tool for sharing stories of God's love. We encourage you as parents to read Bible stories daily with your child. This can be a great bedtime tradition.

### **GROWING IN FAITH AND PASSING ON THE FAITH! THIRD GRADE BIBLES**

During worship on **September 15<sup>th</sup>**, we will celebrate the milestones of 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> to help them get more familiar with their Bibles.

### **HELP WANTED - WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Many of our worship assistant groups are getting pretty small. It takes a large number of people to do a Sunday morning worship service (approximately 20 worship assistants per service on a communion Sunday). These jobs aren't hard and training will be provided, so please consider signing up for an area (or two or three) that you have an interest in. Just fill out a “Count Me In” form or contact the church office. Our schedulers for each group will work with you to accommodate the time and date of the services you would be willing to help out with. Just let them know which dates will or will not work for you and which service you prefer to help out with and they will schedule you accordingly.

# MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

## GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Teams of 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> graders served in the community during June. We inventoried books at the library, emptied Good Shepherd's old kitchen, prepared space and food for Family Promise, worked at the Food Shelf, painted bowls at Channel One, played BINGO at Green Prairie, and prepped the new Good Shepherd kitchen. Thanks to the adults and youth who served! We had lots of fun too. Most important of all we discovered how many youth can fit on one slide!

Thanks to everyone who donated health items with our neighbors in Chicago. The VBS kids donated money for toothpaste and tooth brushes for kids! Our high school youth are serving there right now through CSM—City. Service. Mission. (<http://www.csm.org/>) The youth delivered your gifts to Chicagoans. Please pray for Christian Dunn, Evan Kobler, Jayden Ihrke, Xander Henderson, Mariah Henry, Alese Ihrke, Kaylee Peter, Larissa Jurgenson, and Carole Joyce as they listen, learn, and serve.

A huge thank you to so many people for their help in getting our new building up and running. A special tanks to Joe Suntken for his leadership and the many hours he has spent working on SO MANY THINGS! Also a huge thanks to Bob Endres for the many hours he has put in making sure the new sound system does what we need it to do. Thanks also to the following: the Saturday morning crew who moved things out of storage and cleaned and organized the new kitchen, to Todd Rau and the A/V team for learning something new, to Tina Wangen for painting the music room, and to everyone who has been working behind the scenes (sometimes we never even see you)! The end result is AMAZING!

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN:

**Feed My Starving Children**

**Friday August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Time: Good Shepherd Shift: 3-5 pm**

**Location: Church of Christ, 205 1st St. NE in Plainview**

If you would like to join us to help pack let Pastor Krista know. Anyone 5 years old and older can pack. Bring a nonperishable food item with you for the local Food Shelf and consider a donation to FMSC. Each meal costs 24 cents. There is a goal of raising \$65,520 so that over 3 days in Plainview we can pack over 273,000 meals. 91% of annual donations are spent directly on meal production. 99.8% of meals shipped have safely reached intended locations. Through Feed My Starving Children 999,110 kids are fed for a year and 1,306,128 volunteers are spiritually fed by helping to pack meals.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Donations of school supplies are needed for our local PEM schools. A collection box is in the Gathering Space at church.

# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## Birthdays

<b>08/01</b>	Kaitlin Weinrich	<b>08/14</b>	Parker Ramthun
	Skylar Beckel	<b>08/19</b>	Betty Fahrenz
	Jane Folkert		Betsy Munsch
	Rachael Grover-Anderson	<b>08/20</b>	Tessa Flies
	Parker Matti		Max Breuer
<b>08/03</b>	Todd Schwantz	<b>08/21</b>	Reid Ihrke
	Conner Schumacher	<b>08/24</b>	Brady Sveen
	Karen Back	<b>08/25</b>	Jan Nienow
<b>08/04</b>	Stephanie Amos		Lori Holst
	Rachel Ferkin	<b>08/27</b>	Al Schwantz
<b>08/06</b>	Kurt Schumacher		Alyvia Engler
<b>08/07</b>	Barb Peck		Isaac Pfeilsticker
	Karen Jurgenson	<b>08/29</b>	Koren Melcher
	Christian Dunn		Dawn Suntken
<b>08/08</b>	Elaine Tesmer	<b>08/30</b>	Lonnie Yust
<b>08/10</b>	Jacob Munsch		Bernie Klennert
<b>08/11</b>	Mary Applen		Hannah Schneider
	Kadence Ihrke	<b>08/31</b>	Luke Ferkin
<b>08/12</b>	Sue Tangen		Peyton Bigalk
<b>08/13</b>	Calen Kraemer		

## Anniversaries

<b>08/01</b>	Jason & Kristy Folkert	<b>08/24</b>	Jaime & Sarah Wolf
<b>08/05</b>	Don & Jan Fiskum	<b>08/25</b>	Steve & Peggy Erwin
<b>08/09</b>	Mitchel & Cassie Crary		Don & Deb Weinrich
<b>08/16</b>	Dustin & Becky Wehrs		Paul & Diane Fick
<b>08/17</b>	Todd & Tina Wangen	<b>08/26</b>	Dave & Angie LaBare
	Marc & Koren Melcher	<b>08/27</b>	Lennie & Lori Holst
<b>08/18</b>	Ron & Tammy Peterson	<b>08/28</b>	Wayne & Ellen Miller
<b>08/20</b>	Andy & Brandi Yust	<b>08/29</b>	Joe & Kaitlin Weinrich
<b>08/22</b>	Merlin & Ginny Mielke		

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONS  
OR CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.**

***FOOD FOR THOUGHT***

**Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God!**

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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:

**N**otice the needs of our congregation, community, and world with eyes of faith.  
**E**ducate all from cradle to grave.  
**W**orship in thankfulness and joy.

**V**alue all generations in passing on the faith.  
**I**dentify and affirm the gifts of God's people.  
**E**nergize God's people to use their gifts for ministry.  
**W**elcome the opportunity to walk the talk with our youth.

**The submission deadline for the September 2019 Newsletter is**

***THURSDAY, AUGUST 22.***