

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff



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CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

The Service of "Affirmation of Baptism", also known as "**Confirmation**", will take place on **Sunday, May 5th 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 1st.** 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.

If you plan on attending the banquet, please plan to bring a salad and/or dessert to share with others.

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY

To honor our 2019 graduates, a special baccalaureate service will be held on **Sunday, May 19th at 10:30 a.m.** Graduates, please show up by 10:10 a.m. for photos with your robe (no caps). This baccalaureate service will be a time for us at Good Shepherd to show our love and support to these graduates, and to celebrate God's love that has brought them to this day and leads them into a bright tomorrow. God's blessings to all our seniors on their graduation, and we look forward to celebrating with them on May 19!

GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOLARSHIPS

Any Good Shepherd student who is going to a Lutheran college next fall can apply for a scholarship from Good Shepherd. Please fill out the application form found in the church office. **Deadline is May 17th.** Contact Jake Thompson or Tom Anderson if you have questions.

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PASTOR'S NOTE

“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

This is the good news of Easter. Jesus has risen from the dead. He has made a way through death to life eternal.

In many ways Easter feels like the climax of a long Lenten season (40 days plus the Sundays) and Holy Week. Easter is the joy and hope that comes, like spring following winter. And yet it is important for us to recognize that Easter is not the end. Easter is not a one and done event. Easter isn't over.

In many ways Easter is a beginning. The promise of Easter and the resurrection is not just that Jesus is alive but the message is also that we live because he (Jesus) lives. Unfortunately this doesn't mean the elimination of death from this world, but it does mean the promise that God provides the way through death to life. The good news of Jesus' resurrection and what it means continues to unfold before us each day. God leads us forward into a future of life and love for all eternity. Death will not win. Since Jesus is risen there are possibilities of life and love all around us. God has opened the tomb and the door to hope for today, tomorrow, and all eternity. No matter what life throws at us, no matter how discouraging things get, God is at work in our lives and in the world bringing forth resurrected life.

However, this work of God in bringing forth resurrected life is hard to predict and understand both in Jesus' resurrection and in the work God does today to bring forth life. In all of the Biblical accounts of the resurrection from the Gospel writers of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John not one of them gives us the details of how Jesus rose from the dead. Based on the witness of scripture, no one actually saw Jesus rise from the dead. Not one person can tell us exactly when or how Jesus conquered death, sat up, stood up, and breathed the breath of life. All of this is part of the great mystery of God.

I love the image of the mystery of resurrected life being like a seed that's been planted in the ground and begins to shoot forth. When we plant the seed, we aren't able to see how or exactly when it opens up for life to spring forth. The hymn "Now the Green Blade Rises" puts it this way:

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green. (verses 3-4)

As we continue to celebrate the joy of Easter and the resurrection, may our eyes be open to the new shoots of life that God is bringing forth in our world and in our lives today.

In Christ,
Pastor Krista

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

BOOK GROUP IN MAY

Our May book is called *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova. We do not have a book bag, so find a copy at the library. We will celebrate the end of the year by discussing the book over dinner at JJ Tailgators on Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 pm. Bring ideas of books we should put on our reading list for next fall!

MILESTONES

First Communion: The following students recently studied Holy Communion and had or will have their first communion soon. They baked the communion bread for Maundy Thursday. Welcome to the Lord's Table; there is a place for you.

Nolan Bartsh, Brady Beckel, Blake Burdick, Addison Grant, Logan Hanson, Zachary Hassig, Nora Henry, Easton King, Addy Kobler, Braden Melbostad, Jack Schreiber, Levi Schreiber and Ava Steele

SENIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Chicago Mission Trip

Seven youth will be traveling to Chicago July 28 - August 2, along with Larissa Jurgenson and Carole Joyce. Keep them in your prayers as they prepare to serve and learn in the city. This experience will widen our understanding of the body of Christ and how we work together.

Collecting Health Items for Chicago Trip

Our high school youth traveling to Chicago to serve this summer are collecting health items to share with those experiencing homelessness. Please bring any of the following to church between now and July 21. You are able to make an impact in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Chicago!

- Tooth brushes, tooth paste
- Shampoo & soap (travel size are fine)
- Especially needed for women—tampons and pads
- Especially needed for men—new underwear and socks

Coffee Shop Sunday, May 19th

The last coffee shop of the school year will be May 19th. Thanks for your support of the youth!

Dinner Out for Any High School Youth—especially trip participants—will be Wednesday, May 8. Meet at church at 6:00 pm. Bring money. We will go to Nupa where almost every item is less than \$12.

EDUCATION

END OF SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR CELEBRATION

May 12 is the last day of Sunday school for the year. Come celebrate as the preschool - 2nd grade sing during the 8:00 am worship service. We will recognize teachers at both services. During the education hour, students will celebrate with their classes. We will have a special craft project and, of course, snacks!

THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND CONFIRMATION GUIDES!

Good Shepherd has the most amazing team of people who pass on the faith by teaching and supporting the Sunday school and Confirmation ministry of this congregation!!!! Thank you to the following people for the commitment they made to grow in faith and relationship with our children all year long. Parents, take time to thank these faithful leaders—especially your child's teachers. Our last day of classes for this program year is May 12.

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Teacher(s)</u>	<u>Helper</u>
PreK	Jill Kobler	Evan Kobler
Kindergarten	Kaitlin Weinrich	Tucker Johnson
	Meredith Grant	Gracelyn Grant
1 st Grade	Alicia Pfeilsticker	Destiny Kraemer
		Ainsley Schwantz
2 nd Grade	Joanna Hansen	Kyle Hanson
3 rd Grade	Cathe Hanson	Rachel Ferkin
4 th Grade	Dawn Suntken	
5 th /-6 th Grades	Gina Ihrke	
	Lyna Koepsell	
Sunday School Opening	Gloria Keseley	
Council Leader for Educ.:	Karla Appel	
Confirmation Mentors:	Erin Bluhm	
	Franny Schwantz	
	Joanna Hansen	

BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study group will meet on May 7th at 1:00 p.m. at church. This will be our last meeting.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

VBS 2019: SHIPWRECKED RESCUED BY JESUS

Monday – Thursday

June 10-13

Meal served for all 5:25 – 5:50!

VBS runs: 6:00 - 7:45 pm

For children currently age 3 through 3rd grade.

Come with a caring adult (if possible). Anyone older than 3rd grade may participate as a helper.

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 is with us and rescues us!

Registration forms can be found on Good Shepherd's website www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org or at church and should be returned to the music room. One child per form please. A \$10 donation per child or \$20 per family is encouraged by not required.

Contact Karen Bigalk or Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net or 507-269-9374 with questions or to volunteer.

- Current 4th graders on up are encouraged to volunteer.
- Parents or grandparents of preschoolers are invited to attend with them—an opportunity to play and learn together.

Everyone is welcome, so invite a friend, neighbor, or family member

SUPER HERO SUMMER SERVICE FOR 6TH – 9TH GRADERS

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 on June 6th, 13th, and 20th 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 ...

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 24th**. 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 at carole35@charter.net or 269-9374.

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE BIBLE CAMP—LAST CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

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. Because this can be such a meaningful experience, Good Shepherd would like to pay part of the cost for any student who would like to go to camp at Good Earth Village this summer! This offer is for any student in grades Kind - 9th grade. (Full scholarships are available for anyone with financial need. Just talk to Carole Joyce or Pastor Krista.)

- 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 music room (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 guarantee the week you want.

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Thank you all who participated in the Lenten soup suppers by serving, bringing food, cleaning up, and eating. Your offerings will support our ministry as the youth head to Chicago to learn and serve.

A huge thank you to all who helped make Palm Sunday a wonderful morning. Thanks to the Children's Choir and musicians. Thanks to all who worked in the kitchen: Jason and Cameron Bluhm, Joe and Ben Suntken, Buzz Christison, Kathy Sukalski, Dawn Breuer, Jill and Evan Kobler, Gina and Gavin Ihrke, and Karen Anderson. Thanks to everyone else who brought food and supported the event! Our new building was blessed by all who wrote messages on the walls.

Thank you in advance for the lawn mowing and gardening teams who are gearing up for spring and summer work. It's not too late to sign up! Talk to Joe Suntken.

Thank you to Sue Tangen and Donna Tesch who beautify the sanctuary for the different seasons of the church year. A special thanks to all who donated flowers for Easter.

Thank you to Joe Suntken for filling in many of the potholes in the church parking lot.

Thank you to everyone for your patience during this time of construction.

MATCHING FUNDS FROM THRIVENT

Thrivent members receive a match from Thrivent if they donate for flood relief in Nebraska and/or tornado clean up down south. Contact Jake Thompson at 507-534-3411 for more information.

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).

Good Shepherd Lutheran Financial Summary Notes ---- April 1st, 2019

General Account	\$ 32,081
Restricted Accounts	\$ 21,667 (w/o Bldg. Fund)
Capital Campaign Account	<u>\$ 169,425</u>
Total Short Term Assets	\$ 223,273
Fixed Assets (old Bldg etc.)	\$ 905,479
New Bldg. to date	<u>\$ 512,102</u>
Total Assets	\$1,640,854

Mortgage Balance	\$ 171,195
Equity	\$ 1,469,659

Check Book Trends (General Fund- end of month)

Jan	\$ 19,783
Feb	\$ 29,499
Mar	\$ 32,081

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

05/04	Nate Pfeilsticker		05/16	Aspen Young
	Sara Dick		05/17	Lisa Beck
05/06	Amy Thompson		05/18	Corbin King
	Wade Holst		05/19	Karly Peter
	Addyson Schneider		05/20	Kelly Engler
	Alex Hanson		05/21	Dawson Koepsell
05/07	Chelsea Weinrich			Brittany King
	Kit Sackreiter		05/22	Kim Lyons
05/08	Misty Biers		05/24	Sheila Grover
05/09	Ron Fahrenz			Kaylee Peter
	Lee Olson			Destiny Drenckhahn
05/10	Deb Ninas		05/26	Juniper Holst
	Hanna Sveen		05/27	Raelee Dick
05/11	Clint Schreiber		05/28	Kristen Folkert
05/12	Sibyl Mason		05/29	Annaliese Tuxen
	Easton King			Blake Burkick
05/13	George Tesmer		05/30	Lennie Holst
05/14	Brady Melcher			Jason Folkert
05/15	Ryan Castle			Jackson Niemeyer
05/16	Peyton Schumacher		05/31	Mark Timm
	Cassie Crary			Taylor Nelson

Anniversaries

05/01	Tim & MariClair Schneider		05/16	Marc & Rachael Anderson
05/08	Scot & Nicole Engler		05/25	Joe & Brenda Crudele
05/14	Ben & Alysha Mohs			Eric & Leanne Brevig
05/16	Jon & Stephanie Amos		05/31	Gary & Joanne Melbostad

*NOTE: Birthdays and anniversaries listed in the newsletters are now being limited to active members and their children (college age and under). 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 purpose of life is to live a life of purpose!

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 June 2019 Newsletter is

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22.