

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH IS GOOD SHEPHERD'S EBENEZER & DEDICATION CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

10:30 a.m. One Worship Service of Thanksgiving
12:00 p.m. Share a meal together
Bounce House (weather permitting)

**This will be a time of giving thanks for what God has done.
(See article on page 5 of this newsletter.)**

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Mark your calendars NOW for the following September events!

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

Inside This Issue

- 2 Pastor's Note
- 3 Congregation News
- 4 Congregational Life/Youth
- 5-7 Education
- 8 Missions & Stewardship
- 9 Birthdays & Anniversaries

PASTOR'S NOTE

What a difference a year can make!!!

It's been a year since we embarked on the renovation and addition to our physical space at church. A year ago we were packing everything up. Many things left the building and went into storage at various people's places. Those items left at church often seemed crammed in to small spaces. Yet for a year it worked. Staff all shared the same office space. Everyone came in through the old kitchen door (and a few people through the back door). Between services people waited patiently in the hallway for Sunday school and Adult Education to get out. Ash Wednesday soup supper and worship happened even with septic problems and a temporary furnace that decided to blow soot. When the parking lot was a muddy mess and some of it was blocked off because it was like a sink hole out there, we may have grumbled some (by the way that includes me), but we came to church. We had worship and Sunday school, and various other ministries all took place. We packed food backpacks for the school in an overcrowded kitchen, collected items for various ministries even when it was hard to find a place to put a basket for the collection. We even found creative ways to hold the Annual Chili Cook-Off to benefit the Food Shelf, and we found a way to hold our Children's Christmas program and still invite our relatives and friends (thank you to Peace United Methodist Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church for helping us). Through it all God's Word was shared and we lived out our faith. Thank you for your patience, your flexibility and putting ministry first through it all.

Over the last couple of months we have been living in to our new and renovated space. Thank you to everyone who has worked on getting us to where we are today, and all who are helping with the final projects. Through the construction various volunteers have been involved moving things in and out of the building, providing storage, shoveling the roof, cleaning, decorating, painting, learning a new Audio Visual system, and taking on various aspects of the renovation and addition. These volunteers have made a huge difference and helped with the time and cost of the overall project. There are still some things that need to be done: coat racks in the new Gathering Space, landscaping work, a touch up in one of the bathrooms, finishing touches in the Sunday school space, and a few other things. You may have also noticed a few changes in how things work: all the doors have been re-keyed (with new doors it was a good time to do it for security purposes), lights in main areas like the vestibule, gathering space, kitchen, storage area, and bathrooms all turn on and off automatically. In the kitchen there's a new coffee maker that makes coffee in less than 4 minutes (instructions are right next to it), and the new stove has a hood for ventilation (it's incredible but you may want to ask about how to use the stove and hood ahead of time).

As we live in to this new space we will be experimenting with where and how to do some things. We'll need a new set-up of where to put the tables for community meals. We may try moving some furniture around to different places to see what works best for Sunday and events throughout the week (Scouts will use the building one night a week and Just for Kix will use the building two nights a week). We are looking at the possibility of using the music room also as a youth room and maybe having the Sunday school children's music time in the sanctuary with the Faith Matters/Adult Education time in the Pastor's office. Our hope is to try a few different things and see what works best.

Thank you for this past year! It's not easy living with a construction project, but we at Good Shepherd have come together and made it work. Through it all Good Shepherd has been a welcoming and helping community of people centered in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you! **Please join me on Sunday, September 8th at the 10:30 am service of worship as we give thanks to God, dedicate the new space, and celebrate with a meal following the service.**

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

CONGREGATION NEWS

HOLY LAND PRESENTATION

On **Sunday, October 13th at 9:30 a.m.**, Jay Schmidt will be giving a Holy Land Presentation. Jay will be hosting a tour to Israel from February 5th through the 16th, 2021. If you have an interest in a trip to the Holy Land, come and hear what Jay has to say.

GATHERING OF MINISTRY IDEAS IN MAY AND JULY

Over the summer Good Shepherd hosted two meetings with the hope of gathering ideas from families on ways that we could more fully utilize our new space and any ideas on changes that might better enhance Good Shepherd's ministries and worship services to reach families in our community. Both meetings brought about great discussion! Here we will highlight some ideas that attendees brought forward.

The May meeting was specific to young families and with this group there was a strong desire to enhance Good Shepherd's focus on youth. Some ideas included: installing a playground, installing screens (noted the difficulty of juggling the bulletin and hymnal while holding a baby), hiring a youth director, shortening the length of the worship service and/or Sunday school, altering the start time of second service so it doesn't end so late. The importance of making young families feel welcomed and comfortable especially when young children act up or are loud during worship was expressed.

Other options brought up in discussion included music: the desire for familiar songs during worship and less verses, especially if the song is unfamiliar. Some desire for more contemporary music.

Additional suggestions included an outdoor service in the summer, Saturday night service and more fellowship opportunities which could involve the community such as Valley Fair and ski trips. The idea of taking steps to allow alcohol at gatherings was discussed, i.e. allowing people to bring wine or beer to a meal or social activity at church (the example of Berne Pizza nights was brought up). Also mentioned was the idea of sharing a meal with anyone in need in the community.

The July meeting was open to anyone and again we had wonderful discussion. Some highlights of the discussion included: being visible as a church at our local town festivals, reaching out to area youth in need of tutoring or mentorship, using our space for hosting community events and groups, hosting/providing meals for homeless families, providing meals for seniors, reaching out to families who have baptisms or weddings at Good Shepherd (but aren't necessarily very involved), providing a child-friendly space in our fellowship area, possibly a small bin of toys.

On the topic of worship discussion included: a more contemporary service without a band, possibly one contemporary service per month, a choir (maybe only at certain times of year), Sunday School kids singing once a month and that Sunday have a shorter more casual service, giving all kids an instrument to play during the last song, inviting kids forward at end of service and have them lead the "Go in Peace," helping kids act as ushers & collect the noisy offering, a children's book about being a kid in church, or something to make young families feel welcomed.

CONGREGATION NEWS CONTINUED ...

EBENEZER / DEDICATION SUNDAY

Ebenezer Sunday is a day Good Shepherd has set aside to look back over the past year and remember all the ways God has helped us grow in our ministry. We raise our “Ebenezer” or “stone of help” and give thanks to God who is our ever-present help. This year we will celebrate the completion of our newly enlarged and renovated building. Because of the grace of God and the hard work and financial contributions of our members, we look forward to using the new space in support of ministry. Please join us for a meal after the 10:30 dedication and worship service on Sunday, September 8th. Volunteers are needed to help set up, clean up, and to bring beverages, deserts, and fruit. Signup sheet will be available soon. Our heartfelt thanks to Buzzy Christison, Nate Pfeilsticker and their crew who are spearheading provision of the food.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

Baptism

Blessings to Norah Marie Weinrich and Franklin Donald Weinrich, who were baptized on August 18th. Norah and Franklin are the children of Joe and Kaitlin Weinrich.

Blessings to Lainea Lea Ackman, who was baptized on August 25th. Lainea is the daughter of Samantha Ackman.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday afternoon Bible Study Group is looking forward to start meeting again on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., which will be September 3rd. This year we will be using “Loved by God”, a video series of 7 videos with discussion guide (by Liz Curtis Higgs). Anyone who is interested in joining the Bible Study group is certainly welcome to do so. If you have any questions, you can contact Donna Tesch at donna.tesch@gmail.com.

7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

All 7th and 8th graders are invited to be a part of Confirmation. We meet on Wednesdays for food and faith from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. After a simple meal provided by parents, the youth meet in large groups to study the Small Catechism and small groups to talk about faith in everyday life.

Confirmation Kick-Off will be Wednesday, September 4th from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. All students AND parents will gather at 6:00 pm for a meal. Plan to contribute \$4 per person for the main dish. **Please bring a side or dessert to share and a beverage.** We will look ahead at our year together.

If you have not met with Pastor yet, contact Pastor Krista now for a short individual parent and child conversation time!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED ...

BEDTIME BIBLE STORIES

Beginning Sunday school at age three is an important milestone in a child's life! Parents and three year olds (who turn three by September 1st) are invited to Bedtime Bible stories on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00 pm. Children receive their own Beginner's Bible, meet their Sunday school teachers, and get a tour of the church. Parents will join in the activities, meet other parents, and think more about their role in their child's faith journey. All three year olds are welcome and any new 4 year olds too! Come in your pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

All children age 3 through 6th grade are invited and encouraged to participate in Sunday school at Good Shepherd. Regular Sunday school classes will begin on September 15th. If you haven't registered yet, do it today!

- 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.

We need ALL children to register so we have current information. We ask you to do this as soon as possible, so our teachers can be prepared and ready for the kids who are planning to attend Sunday school.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

We give thanks to God for the awesome leaders who will be teaching Sunday school this year! Please keep them in your prayers as they commit to sharing stories of God's love with our children and youth. We still need partners to work with teachers already committed to the 2nd grade class and 4th or 5th-6th grade class. (Team teachers share the job so they don't teach every week.) Talk to Carole Joyce to volunteer or find out more! Do you know anyone who would like to be a helper? High school youth and adults are welcome. Talk to Carole Joyce to find out where helpers are needed.

All Sunday school teachers and helpers will meet on Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00 pm. This is an important time to learn about students, curriculum, and the year. Most important, we will pray for our children. Please plan to attend. Contact Carole Joyce at 269-9374 if you have questions.

EDUCATION

Kick Off the Sunday School Year: Sunday, September 15th at 9:15 am

- Meet your Sunday school teacher & class!
- Important parents meeting for ALL parents!
- All are welcome so bring a friend.

Please join us on Sunday, September 15th at 9:15 am for the Sunday school kick-off event. Parents will start out in the sanctuary for information and fellowship. Kids will start out in the sanctuary too but will be dismissed by grade to their Sunday school classes.

PASSING ON THE FAITH! THIRD GRADE BIBLES

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

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK GROUP

Calling all book lovers. You are invited to join the Good Shepherd Book Group as we read, discuss, laugh, and grow! We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. New people are always welcome! These are the books we will be reading during the 2019-2020 year in case you can't wait to get started!

Our first meeting will be at church on Wednesday, September 19th at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss *Tattoo Artist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. If you haven't read it yet, beg, borrow or buy a copy and show up on Wednesday, September 18th.

<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.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

ADULT EDUCATION: FAITH ON THE MOVE

Refugees and Immigrants in the Bible and Today

Faith on the Move (previously known as adult education) is for all who are not in Sunday school. We will begin meeting on Sunday, September 22nd at 9:30 am in Pastor Krista's office. Our topic this fall is Refugees and Immigrants in the Bible and Today.

Almost every day we turn on the news and hear about refugees and people seeking immigration status. These events are happening in our country, at our borders, and around the world. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees there are 65.3 million displaced persons in the world today. In fact there are more refugees in the world today than at any point since World War II. Last month, our larger church body, the ELCA declared itself a sanctuary church as a way to continue our support to refugees and immigrants (this is not a decision endorsing illegal activity).

This fall we will dig deeper into exploring the topics of refugees, immigrants, the Biblical stories surrounding these topics, the ELCA decision and our faith. For digging into the Biblical story we will be using "Faith on the Move: Out of the Waters" study from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) as well as current information and videos about today's refugees and immigrants provided by LIRS.

These are complex issues, made even more complicated today by threats of violence and terrorism. In our time together our goal is to explore the Biblical story and our response as people of faith. This is a time to share our stories, our fears and our hopes (without judgment) and the challenges that we and others face.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

We will kick off the high school year with a sundae bar on Wednesday, September 25th at 7:30 pm. Parents and youth are invited to come as we plan for the year. Parents and youth will break out into separate groups to choose priorities for the year.



MISSIONS AND STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Thanks for providing school supplies for kids who need them in the PEM district.

You were an important part of ministry in Chicago too! Thanks to your generosity we delivered 55 toothbrushes, 37 tubes of toothpaste, 44 pairs of men's underwear, 53 pairs of socks, 45 bars of soap, 30 bottles of shampoo, deodorant, tampons, pads, and shoes. Thanks for sharing God's love!

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits.

Start gathering the items listed below for the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. On October 20th the whole congregation will work together to will pack these and do other service for our community and world.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE** adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*
- ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

** Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap*

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

09/01	William Dunn	09/18	Kaylee Hutchison
09/03	Allen Breuer		Kip Folkert
	Dave LaBare	09/19	Jason Engler
09/05	Jennifer Matti		Sage Grover
	Adam Lyons	09/20	Mike Kobler
09/06	Tina Erickson	09/21	Jay Schmidt
09/07	Tim Rahman		Amber Kingsley
09/08	Cameron Bluhm		Joseph Sackreiter
	Kyle Hanson	09/22	Kelly Nesler
09/09	Les Berning	09/23	Adalyn Castle
	Joanne Melbostad	09/24	Levi Folkert
09/11	Tami Sawyer	09/25	Mindy Drenckhahn
	Conner Ramthun		Nicole Engler
09/12	Nathen Nesler	09/26	Dawn Breuer
	Addison Grant	09/29	Dar Weaver
09/13	Jennifer Gusa		Brooklyn Young
09/15	Ava LeVan	09/30	Blake Hassig
	Pat Hanson-Haack		Rebecca Hassig
09/15	Parker Shanks		Angie Beckel
09/17	Rich Harwood		

Anniversaries

09/03	Cheryl & Steve Schneider	09/16	Nate & Alicia Pfeilsticker
09/07	Scott & Kathy Rohlik	09/18	Stan & Donna Tesch
	Mike & Kathy Sveen	09/20	Les & Carla Berning
09/08	Neil & Dar Weaver		Ryan & Andrea Castle
09/09	Kurt & Trisha Schumacher	09/21	Terry & Lonnie Yust
	Jason & Kelly Engler		Wayne & Michelle Wendt
09/10	Dan & Linda Schmitz	09/23	Bob & Barb Petit
09/13	Jason & Erin Bluhm	09/26	Dave & Pat Haack
09/15	Lynn & Eugene Eversman		Mark & Laurie Timm
	Nate & Kelly Nesler		

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

*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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Give without remembering.
Take without forgetting.**

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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 October 2019 Newsletter is

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23.