

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff



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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On November 3rd we celebrate All Saints Sunday. On this day we remember all those who have died and now live in the promise of the resurrection to eternal life. We especially remember those who have died this past year by lighting a candle as their name is read during our worship service. During our service, everyone has the opportunity to light a candle in memory of their loved ones.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Good Shepherd Church will be hosting the ecumenical Thanksgiving service on **Sunday evening, November 24th at 6:00 p.m.** As always, the offering from this service will go to benefit the PEM Food Shelf. Everyone is invited to attend this “service of thanksgiving” so put it on your calendar now.

10th ANNUAL CHILI/CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP COOK-OFF NOVEMBER 6th, 2019

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will once again be hosting our Annual Chili/Chicken Noodle Soup Cook-Off fundraising event. This year we are able to have the event “on home turf”. **It will be held on Wednesday, November 6th, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** This is a community event, so anyone from the community is encouraged to make their special homemade chili or chicken noodle soup and join us for this fun event. Please invite family and friends to join us.

Proceeds from the Cook-Off will benefit the Plainview Elgin Area Food Shelf. Proceeds from the Silent Auction will benefit the Good Shepherd ministries for children and youth.

If you have donations for the Silent Auction, please bring them to church no later than November 3rd. If you have questions about the suitability of an item, please feel free to discuss it with Karla Appel, Deb Weinrich, or Sue Tangen.

Inside This Issue

- 2 Pastor's Note
- 3 Congregational News
- 4 Congregational Life/Youth
- 5 Education
- 6 Stewardship
- 7 Finance
- 8 Community
- 9 Birthdays and Anniversaries

PASTOR'S NOTE

A few weeks ago the Gospel reading for the day was Jesus' healing of the 10 lepers. In the story only one of the lepers turns back to give thanks. Leprosy not only affected a person's skin, but in Jesus' day lepers were forced to live a life of isolation usually outside of the town, others never came anywhere close to and would certainly never give a leper a hug or a kiss. When Jesus heals these lepers, they each received a tremendous gift of the healing of their skin but also a gift of restoring their lives to once again be with their loved ones. I imagine that each one of those lepers was very thankful, but scripture says that only one leper came back to thank Jesus.

An "Experiment in Gratitude" by Soul Pancake discovers that there's something that happens to us when we actually express our gratitude. Not only does it bring joy to the other person, but expressing gratitude also increases our own happiness. We often tend to take things for granted. As Christians, when we are attentive to the things around us, we see the many blessings God gives to us. In the "Experiment in Gratitude" people were asked to write a letter to a person who made a positive impact in their lives. In other words, they were asked to pay attention to an aspect of their lives. By paying attention to this area of their lives and reflecting on it by writing a letter, they became aware of the blessing of another person.

God pours out upon us numerous blessings in our lives, but we don't always pay attention or take the time to reflect on those blessings. Thanksgiving provides an opportunity to pay attention and reflect. Some people will share what they are thankful for at the Thanksgiving table and others of us will mentally take note of what we are thankful for because after all it is Thanksgiving and that's what we should do on a day like Thanksgiving. But what about the rest of the year?

When I think about the rest of the year, the first thing that comes to my mind is "but I don't always feel thankful or full of gratitude." Most of us fall into the "feeling" trap at some point or time. We think we need to feel like doing something before we do it. And yet, when it comes to the Christian way of life of loving our neighbor and living a life of faith and gratitude, we aren't called to "feel" like it first. In fact, our behaviors often lead the way. When we practice gratitude and thanksgiving by reflecting and sharing we become grateful and thankful. It's maybe a bit like the old Nike commercial "Just Do It."

So, this Thanksgiving (and why not every day), just do it – practice gratitude and thanksgiving. And you may want to check out the "Experiment in Gratitude" by Soul Pancake and take on the challenge yourself. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHv6vTKD6lg>. You may even end up happier.

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

THANK YOU – Thank you to everyone for all the well wishes, cards, flowers and gift to the Hubbell House for pastor appreciation month. What a gift and a blessing to be partners in ministry with you at Good Shepherd! My family and I are thankful that God has brought us together. – Pastor Krista

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

ADVENT

Believe it or not, Advent is just around the corner! Advent, the season of watching and waiting for our Savior's birth begins on Sunday, December 1st. Devotions will be available for families with children AND for adults. Pick up your copy at the end of November. Take one home and use it daily to help you reflect on the meaning of Jesus' birth.

COOKIE WALK: DECEMBER 6TH (7:30 – 11:00 A.M.)

COOKIES, COOKIES, AND MORE COOKIES!!

Do you know what you plan on baking for the cookie walk? If not, start planning now, as it is only about a month away.

We ask each family to donate between 12-15 dozen Christmas cookies. They can all be of one recipe or a variety of recipes. **Please concentrate on cookies.** Breads, candies, fudge and other treats don't seem to sell as well as cookies; however, we won't turn any of these items away.

We ask that the cookies come on nice platters or decorative boxes (this helps in the cleanup). Also, please write the name of your cookies (or list flavors) so the buyers know what kind of cookies they are. Also, if they have nuts in them, please list what kind (walnuts, pecans, etc).

We need the cookies delivered between 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening, December 5th so we can have them all placed on the tables and ready to go by 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The doors don't open until 7:30 a.m., but it seems like every year we have buyers waiting at the door by 7:00 a.m.

We also need a lot of helpers for this event. It is a very short time commitment and it is actually very fun. Youth (4th grade and up) are encouraged to help. We need helpers on Friday night and Saturday morning. Contact Franny Schwantz (876-2253 or frannyschwantz@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

Baptisms

Blessings to Kayden Roger Merchlewitz, who was baptized on October 13, 2019. Kayden is the son of Ashton LaBare & Dakota Merchlewitz.

HOLY LAND TRIP

For anyone that is interested in going on the Holy Land tour, hosted by Journeys By Jay (Jay Schmidt), your initial deposit of \$500/per person is due to Jay by Thanksgiving. If you have any questions, contact Jay at (507)273-3262 or Jay@journeysbyjay.com.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

GOOD SHEPHERD BOOK CLUB

Meet on **Wednesday, November 13th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm** at Good Shepherd to discuss *Plague of Doves* by Louis Erdrich. Books are in the library book bag on the counter in the music room. Pick one up to read any time—add your name to the check-out list before taking it.

The December book is *We are Displaced* by Malala Yousafzai. No book bag is available so check it out from the library. Each chapter is one person's story so it is quick and easy to read.

BLANKET MINISTRY

Join us for a day of service, fellowship, laughter, and food as we make milestone blankets for graduates and baptisms. **Thursday, November 14th we will start at 8:30 am** and work until mid-afternoon with a break for soup and bread. Whether you have sewing experience or not, there will be something you can do to help. Come join us.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY – Grades 9-12

Chili Cook Off Service

Help serve at the Chili & Chicken Noodle Soup Cook Off on **Wednesday, November 6th from 5:00 - 7:30 pm**. This is a favorite and fun way to serve, connect with others, and make a difference. It will be especially fun as we use the new kitchen and gathering space! Proceeds will go to the PEM Food Shelf

Summer Trip Meeting Wednesday, November 20th at 7:30 pm.

Good Shepherd offers different summer high school experiences every year. This is our year for an outdoor adventure. On November 20th, we will have an informational meeting about backpacking in CO—your choice--and what we will experience and do. Come to ask questions, find out more, and help choose our activities. Parents are encouraged to come too.

Coffee Shop November 10th

Thank you to the youth for serving coffee, hot chocolate, and sweet rolls on the **2nd Sunday of each month**. It is a wonderful time to gather with friends, make new friends, and connect with people of different ages. Your contributions go to support youth ministry. Thank you congregation for supporting the high school students.

EDUCATION

FAITH ON THE MOVE

Faith on the Move (previously known as adult education) is for all who are not in Sunday school. **We meet on Sunday mornings 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. 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.

NOVEMBER EDUCATION MEETING

Want to help plan and share input on Good Shepherd's education programs? Your input is valuable! The November education meeting is at **7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 12th at Kim's**. Contact Karla Appel or Carole Joyce for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Mark your calendar now for the Sunday school Christmas program. **It will be presented during the worship services on Sunday, December 15th**. This year's program is called *Arrest These Merry Gentlemen* and speaking parts are being given out now. You won't want to miss hearing the story of Jesus' birth as told by our Sunday school children!

CONFIRMATION RETREAT — NOVEMBER 9TH AND 10TH

We will build our real life skills for building friendships and helping see the needs of others. Everyday Samaritans help young people support and care for peers through faith and Bible stories. Of course the best part is always building community by being together and having fun. **We leave Good Shepherd at 8:30 am on Saturday and return at 12:30 pm on Sunday.**



STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Thank you to all who participated in the God's Work-Our Hands service on October 20!

- We packed 63 LWR personal care kits for those experiencing disaster due to hurricane, earthquake, floods, and war.
- We sent notes to veterans and active military members.
- Made goodies for the Chili Cook-Off.
- Made tag blankets for babies baptized at Good Shepherd.
- Wrote notes for our Operation Christmas Child boxes and extra LWR supplies were added to the boxes.
- Thanks to all who brought supplies and to Thrivent for the action team moneys which increased our outreach this year.

The Sunday school offering this fall is going to Good Earth Village Bible Camp. Every summer kids from Good Shepherd spend time at this camp. Our confirmation students enjoy retreating their too. How awesome to support GEV ministry with our offerings.

OCTOBER NOISY OFFERING

Our October noisy offering brought in \$126.94, which is being sent to Lutheran Campus Center at Winona State College. THANK YOU ALL for your support – not only for the October noisy offering, but for each month's noisy offering. The recipients of our checks are very thankful for our support.

NOVEMBER NOISY OFFERING

Our November noisy offering will go to help support The Minnesota Blue Star Mothers. This group is made up of mothers who have children serving in the military, guard or reserves, or children who are honorably discharged veterans. They are a non-profit 501(c)3 service organization supporting each other and their children while promoting patriotism. With Veterans Day being in November, we thought this would be a good month to show our support to these Blue Star Mothers. If you are interested in more information about the Blue Star Mothers, you can talk to Tami Sawyer.

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 ---- 9/30/19

General Account	\$ 42,060
Restricted Accounts	\$ 24,951 (w/o Bldg. Fund)
Capital Campaign Account	<u>\$ 103,134</u>
Total Short Term Assets	\$ 170,145
Fixed Assets (old Bldg etc.)	\$ 905,479
New Bldg. to date	<u>\$1,307,941</u>
Total Assets	\$2,383,565

Mortgage Balance	\$ 798,560
Equity	\$ 1,585,005

COMMUNITY

120^h Annual Festival of Trees...and More

When the Festival of Trees...and More event started, friends and neighbors like you donated decorated Christmas trees that were displayed at the Plainview Area Community & Youth Center. These items were bid on through silent auction with the winning bidders announced on the Saturday evening of Olde Fashioned Christmas at 7:30 p.m. Throughout the years, the Festival of Trees has grown and evolved into a wonderful event filled with much more than Trees. Beautiful wreaths, centerpiece, student artwork, holiday place settings, wine chillers and so much more have been donated. The important part of all of this is all proceeds go toward the operating expenses of the Community Center.

Festival of Trees...And MoreEvent Schedule:

Friday, 12/6 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, 12/7 from 10:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Soup/Sandwich Served:

Friday, 12/6 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, 12/7 from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Gently Used Christmas Item Sale:

Friday, 12/6 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, 12/7 from 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Please consider donating a decorated tree, wreath, centerpiece, other holiday décor, photography package or a monetary related contribution (these are tax deductible). The Center will provide refreshments while you set up, cords for electrical hookup, and a sign to be displayed with your item. Please state if there is to be a minimum starting bid. It is important the Center knows how many items are coming in for set up, so please fill out a form, or send Cindy Rettmann an email at plainviewccyc@gmail.com, putting "Festival" in the subject line so it is sure to catch Cindy's attention. Forms must be returned by November 15th. If you have questions, contact Cindy at 534-3802 or 534-4142.

PLAINVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER **BAKED POTATO/CHILI BAR (with all the "Fixins")**

Baked Potato/Chili Bar (with all the "Fixins") will be held at the Plainview Community Center **every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. starting November 7th**. Sour cream, onions, cheese, bacon bits and crackers will be available. Beverages will include coffee, water and milk. There will be a free will offering for the meal! Cary outs will be available. Call 534-3802.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

11/01	Addy Kobler	11/11	Barb Petit
11/02	Olivia Bianchi		Rose Wolf
11/04	Teresa Kreofsky		Whitlee Flies
	Tommy Weinrich	11/14	Autumn Bartsh
11/06	Gregg Luebke	11/16	Mariah Henry
	Pastor Krista	11/19	Kenny Hutchison
11/08	Isabel Appel		Desirae Wehrs
	Jack Johnson	11/21	Clark Olstad
	Jake Johnson		Alice Henderson
	Carter Weinrich	11/25	George Back
11/09	Donna Tesch	11/27	Jill Kobler
	Addison Nesler		

Anniversaries

11/28	Kevin & Cindy Fuerstneau
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*NOTE: Birthdays and anniversaries listed in the newsletters are now being limited to active 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

**If you want to turn your life around,
try thankfulness!**

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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 December 2019 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22.