

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff

JANUARY EVENTS

Mark your calendars NOW for the following January events!

Contact Information

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Pastor: Krista Henning-Ferkin
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Cong. Administrator: Lynn Eversman
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Passing on Faith Facilitator: Carole Joyce
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Home Phone: (507) 288-0551
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Worship Services	Sundays 8:00 & 10:30 am
Sunday School	Sundays 9:15 am
Adult Education (Jan. 5 & 19)	Sundays 9:30 am
Bible Study	Tues., Jan 7 1:00 pm
Confirmation	Wednesdays 6:00 pm
Blanket Making	Thurs, Jan 9 8:00 am
Budget Review Meeting	Sun., Jan 12 9:15 am
Coffee Shop	Sun., Jan 12 9:15 am
Baptism Beach Party	Sun., Jan 12 9:15 am
Education Meeting	Tues., Jan 14 7:00 pm
Book Group	Wed., Jan 15 6:30 pm
French Toast Breakfast (by Youth)	Sun., Jan 19 8:30 am
Ski Trip	Mon., Jan 20
Pack Care Packages	Sun., Jan 26 9:15 am
Potluck Meal	Sun., Jan 26 11:30 am
Annual Meeting	Sun., Jan 26 12:00 noon

YOUTH SPONSORED FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST

On **January 19th from 8:30 – 10:15 am**, the Good Shepherd youth will once again be sponsoring a French toast breakfast. The menu will include French toast, Scrambled eggs, sausage, milk and coffee. There will be a free will offering.

GOOD SHEPHERD BUDGET MEETING

On **Sunday, January 12th at 9:15 a.m.**, there will be a Congregational Informational Meeting to discuss the budget. Please plan on attending.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual **Congregational meeting** will be held on **Sunday, January 26th**. We will start with a potluck meal in the gathering space at 11:30 a.m., followed by the meeting at 12:00 noon. Please plan on bringing a dish to pass. We hope you can join us!

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PASTOR'S NOTE

How would you answer the following questions:

- What is God calling Good Shepherd to do?
- What is God calling Good Shepherd to be?
- Why is Good Shepherd important? To God? To the Community? To you?
- What is God's purpose for Good Shepherd?

These questions are questions to help us think about what the mission and purpose is for us as Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

As best we can figure out as a council, Good's Shepherd last mission statement is over ten years old. From what people remember this was developed shortly after Pastor Kevin arrived. So, here's a test for you: what is that mission statement? It's often summarized as "New View." Do you remember now? By the way it's printed at the beginning of the announcement sheet each week.

It's been a while since we as a church have looked at the mission statement to think about if it still fits us and if it's the best way to express what God is calling us to do and be here in this place. As we work on this process, we will be asking you to share your thoughts. We may have some time set aside in worship to do this, during the annual meeting, and other opportunities.

As we dig into this process we may decide to keep our current mission statement, tweak it with some different language, or maybe something else will emerge and we say "that's it." Our goal is a statement that describes why our congregation exists and what its purpose is in God's kingdom. In other words, why has God placed us here in this place at this time? To help us in this process not only do we want to ask the questions listed above, but we want to listen to what God has to say to us and ground ourselves in prayer.

I invite you to join with me in listening for what God is saying by studying scripture and turning to God in prayer. Here are some scripture lessons to consider:

- Luke 5:1-11
- Acts 2:1-4, 38-47
- Luke 4:16-30

O God, we are children of your presence and your promises. We are shaped by your love and filled with your grace. Make of us as your church what you will, that we may be your people in this world, bearing witness to your goodness and salvation. May those around us be touched by your Holy Spirit because of our words and deeds, for the sake of Christ, our Lord. Amen

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

CARE PACKAGE SUNDAY: JANUARY 26TH AT 9:15 AM

Who doesn't like to give or receive a box full of love? Join us on January 26th to share God's love through care packages for Good Shepherd's post high school youth and military. We will work together making Valentines, snack mix, and other goodies to include. Sunday school students, parents, youth, and ALL adults are invited to help. You can even add personal notes to as many boxes as you want and we will send them for you. Once again Thrivent will be sponsoring the shipping costs!

TREATS FOR CARE PACKAGES

Would you like to donate items like microwave popcorn, hot chocolate packets, fun sized candy, post- its, or other little items our post high school and military might enjoy? Put items in the box in the gathering area. Then come help pack on **January 26th at 9:15 am!**

ADDRESSES NEEDED FOR POST HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULTS

We would like current addresses for Good Shepherd's post high school youth---those who graduated in the past 4-5 years. We would also like addresses for those in the military. Good Shepherd will be sending out care packages in late January. To get your young adult on this list, please email the church office or Carole Joyce at carole35@charter.net.

MILESTONES

Baptisms

Blessings to Grayson Scott Murphy, who was baptized on December 1st. Grayson is the son of Adam and Amanda Murphy.

Blessings to Cooper Benjamin Timm, who was baptized on December 1st. Cooper is the son of Ben and Desaray Timm.

Blessings to Luca Jon Paradise, who was baptized on December 1st. Luca is the son of Jon and Lana Paradise.

Blessings to Addisyn Renee Littlefield, who was baptized on December 8th. Addisyn is the daughter of Andrew Miller and Megan Littlefield.

Blessings to Kolton Edward Graner, who was baptized on December 22nd. Kolton is the son of Brian Graner and Heather Speer.

Blessings to John William Sawyer, who was baptized on December 29th. John is the son of Dustin Sawyer and Amanda Whitley.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

WORK DAYS FOR MILESTONE BLANKETS

Spend a cold winter day **Thursday, January 9th** with Good Shepherd friends sewing blankets for our graduates and babies! Meet at church for sewing, fellowship, fun, and of course food (warm soup and bread). We will start at 8:30 a.m. and stop after lunch. Come when you can and leave when you must. Sewing skills are helpful, but not required. So if you can't sew, come anyway to cut, pin, and most of all have fun. If you have any questions, contact Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net or 269-9374).

BOOK GROUP PARTY AND BOOK FOR JANUARY

The January Book Group will meet on **January 15th** at 6:30 pm to talk about *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. Copies of the book are in the music room. If you take a book, please check it out. Please bring a gently used book wrapped to share at our January meeting and we will have a little party.

Our February book is *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver. A book bag will be available.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY (Grades 9-12)

High School Summer Colorado Backpacking Trip: June 20-28

We are excited to be offering an outdoor adventure backpacking trip this summer. We will work together, explore God's creation, and learn about God and ourselves while hiking in the mountains of Colorado. Rainbow Trail Bible Camp will be our guides. You can learn more at <https://www.rainbowtrail.org/compass-points/>.

Sign up is going on NOW and we want to know you are coming by January 10th. Make a deposit to reserve your spot. Friends are welcome too as space allows. Contact Carole Joyce ay carole35@charter.net to get a registration form.

January Ski Trip-January 20th

All high school and middle school youth are invited to a fun ski day at Coffee Mill on January 20th. Adult leaders are needed too! Please contact Carole Joyce to reserve a ride, to help and to drive. Children accompanied by parents are invited to come too. We will have a fun day on the slopes (or in the lodge where Carole will be hanging out)! It will be a fun Good Shepherd (and friends) ski day! Prices are \$24 lift ticket (\$20 for those under age 12); \$15 ski rental; \$25 snowboard rental. All are welcome!

January Coffee Shop

Thanks to the high school youth, we have flavored coffee, hot chocolate and cinnamon rolls between services once a month. Look for these tasty treats on January 12th. Join us for wonderful fellowship. Thank you to the congregation for your support of high school ministry.

On January 19th, plan to have some breakfast served by the youth using the new kitchen. Enjoy wonderful fellowship and tasty food from 8:30 until 10:15.

EDUCATION

Faith Matters

Sundays January 5 and 19

9:30 - 10:15 am in Pastor's Office

Topic: Be Still and Know that I am God

When God's people lived as slaves in Egypt they were overworked with little to no time to rest or worship God. When God's people left Egypt God gave them a gift in the 3rd Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep it Holy." Unfortunately, today many of us struggle to rest and keep the Sabbath (or find time to worship). We find ourselves living in a fast-paced, always on, always available 24/7 world feeling like we have no time to rest or worship God. In our study time together we will explore what God has to say about rest and Sabbath as well as how we deal with the challenges of today's demanding world. Along with digging into scripture we will use Dr. Matthew Sleeth's Bible Study entitled "24/6" where he prescribes a 24/6 life (instead of a 24/7 life) in order to rest and worship.

On Sunday, January 26, everyone is invited to help with the service project that includes sending care packages to recent high school graduates.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM THANK YOU

Thank you to the amazing preschool and elementary Sunday school students (and their teachers and parents) for the wonderful message about Jesus' birth through "Arrest These Merry Gentlemen". What a gift to have you share the Christmas story in this meaningful way. Thank you to directors Pastor Krista and Linda Theisen and preschool music leaders Tessa Flies and Sherry Tuxen. Thanks to all who learned lines and music. Thanks to Tom Anderson, Evan Kobler, Cameron Bluhm, and Gavin Ihrke for technology.

Photos are available on the Good Shepherd Facebook page and website. You can see a video on the website at <https://goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/>

EDUCATION MEETIN ON JANUARY 14th

The Education team will meet on January 14th at 7:00 pm. Teachers and parents and anyone interested in Good Shepherd's education ministry are invited. Check with Karla Appel or Carole Joyce for location.

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

January 5 – Regular Schedule

January 12 – Regular Schedule

Baptism Beach Party (families of children under age 3)

January 19 – Regular Schedule

January 26 – All Ages – Pack Care Packages

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Parents & All Infants, 2 & 3 Year Olds (not in Sunday School): Sunday, January 12th at 9:15 am

We want to remember your child's baptism in worship on January 12th. Bring your child's baptismal candle if you can find it to whichever service you prefer to attend.

During the education hour, we will have a reunion of families with baptisms this year, take a group photo, and enjoy a beach party. Parents and infants/toddlers/and those too young for Sunday school, come warm up your winter at the baptism party! We will play beach games, remember our baptism, and have time for adults to talk. Break out summer hats and sunglasses for some mid-winter fun!

Looking ahead to February:

Second Grade: "It's Not Fair?" – February 2nd and 9th at 9:15 am

We are looking forward to seeing you and your child at the special class for second graders and their parents, "What's Fair?" This will be a time of serious fun, where we will face one of our children's greatest frustrations – that life isn't fair! Discover together how to cope with life's unfairness and learn what God considers the fair facts. We will meet in the education space from 9:15 –10:15 a.m. on February 2nd and 9th

Kindergarten: Lord's Prayer -- February 16th and 23rd at 9:15 am

This class is for all Kindergarteners and their parents. Mark your calendar now. Watch for more details.

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 ----11/30/19

General Account	\$ 33,571
Restricted Accounts	\$ 25,114 (w/o Bldg. Fund)
Capital Campaign Account	<u>\$ 105,000</u>
Total Short Term Assets	\$ 163,685
Fixed Assets (old Bldg etc.)	\$ 905,479
New Bldg. to date	<u>\$ 1,280,965</u>
Total Assets	\$2,350,129

Mortgage Balance	\$ 795,380
Equity	\$ 1,554,749

Check Book Trends (General Fund- end of month)

Jan \$ 19,783	March \$32,081	May \$31,114	July \$36,939
Feb \$ 29,499	April \$34,162	June \$35,320	Aug \$41,128
Sep. \$ 42,060	Oct \$39,140	Nov \$33,571	Dec

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS

Sharing Tree

Once again THANKS for your generosity in giving to the Sharing Tree. The Plainview-Elgin Food Shelf received approximately \$2000 in gift cards. This truly will make a better Christmas for many people. A special THANKS to Bonnie McMillin for heading up this event and to Bonnie, Betty Fahrenz and Kathy Suialski for getting the Sharing Tree set up.

Lights for Life Luminaries

Thanks to all who donated to Lights for Life luminaries. It is always meaningful to the Confirmation students as they decorate the bags. Thanks for their artwork. These lights celebrate those who have fought with cancer. Money donated goes to the American Cancer Society for cancer research.

Toys for Tots

Thank you to the many people who contributed toys to the Toys for Tots box. Children and youth in the area will now receive Christmas gifts.

Advent Worship

Thank you to Gloria Keesely, Kaylee Hutchison, Alese Ihrke, Cameron Bluhm, Luke Ferkin, Gavin Ihrke, and Jesalynn Bluhm for leading music at Advent worship.

Cookie Walk

This year our cookie walk brought in \$2214. This money will be distributed to the Good Shepherd youth, the Good Shepherd building fund, and St. Jude's Children Hospital. THANKS to everyone who contributed in any way towards the success of this event – a special thanks to Franny Schwantz for her organizing this event and to Thrivent Financial for providing funds for the lefse.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

01/01	Merlin Mielke		01/16	Travis Ihrke
	Annie Weinrich		01/18	Don Fiskum
01/02	Kathy Sveen		01/19	Sherry Tuxen
	Grace Wangen			Zachary Hassig
	Christian Wangen		01/23	Gloria Keseley
01/04	Tucker Johnson			MariClair Schneider
	Charli Yust		01/24	Fran Grover
01/05	Don Weinrich			Deb Weinrich
01/08	Ron Kurth		01/25	Hayley Rau
01/10	Kelsey Rahman			Hunter Rau
01/11	Nicholas Hanson			Evan Kobler
01/12	Tammy Peterson			Brandon Melcher
01/13	Trisha Schumacher		01/31	Tayla Erickson
	Emma LeVan			Alysha Mohs
01/15	Joe Crudele			Kinsley Ausman

Anniversaries

01/04	Bob & Jeanne Dunn		
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**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONS
OR CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Humility is not thinking less of yourself,
but thinking of yourself less.**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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Plainview, MN 55964

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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 February 2020 Newsletter is

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22.