

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff

February 2020

Issue 227

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LENTEN SEASON – COMING SOON!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!

LENT SCHEDULE 2020

Ash Wednesday
February 26 at 7:00 pm

Service of Worship with
Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Communion

5:30 – 6:45 pm Soup Supper
(Every Wednesday through Lent)

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY SERVICES IN LENT – 7:00 PM

Half hour service of worship

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday	April 5
Maundy Thursday with 1st communion	April 9
Good Friday	April 10
Easter Sunday	April 12

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Lenten devotions for adults will be available in the narthex. Please take one for your Lenten journey. A resource for families will be available too.

PASTOR'S NOTE

The last weekend in January, Assistant to the Bishop, Emily Carson joined us for worship and packing care packages. What a joy to hear her reflect on how she sees the Holy Spirit at work in the people and ministries of Good Shepherd. She called us "a congregation with vitality." The definition the synod and national church are using for vitality is "Communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, one another, and the world." What this exactly looks like differs with each congregation and their call from God.

At our annual meeting we began reflecting together on God's call for Good Shepherd. In the Bible all four of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) share stories of Jesus calling his disciples, but each of the Gospels tells the story in a slightly different way. Similarly, each of us would probably describe God's call to ministry for Good Shepherd in slightly different ways.

Over this next month, I would like to invite you to reflect on and pray about what God's calling to Good Shepherd looks like. To get started read Luke's account of Jesus calling the disciples.

Luke 5:1-11 - Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. (NRSV)

Then reflect on the following:

1. Simon Peter says to Jesus, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." **What is Jesus saying to us?**
2. Jesus said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." **What does it mean for us as a church to put into the deep and let down our nets?**
3. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. **How are we as a church called to fish for people? How are we called to follow Jesus?**

Feel free to email me your thoughts and reflections or let's get together for coffee and talk more. I look forward to us continuing the conversation.

In Christ,
Pastor Krista

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

MILESTONE BLANKET WORK DAY

Nothing is more fun on a cold winter day than hanging out with friends. Spend **Thursday, February 6th** with Good Shepherd friends making blankets for graduates and others. Meet at church for sewing, fellowship, fun, and of course food! Sewing skills are helpful, but not required. So if you can't sew, come anyway to cut, pin, tie and most of all have fun.

BOOK GROUP IN FEBRUARY

Winter is a great time to read books and talk about them with friends. Join Good Shepherd's Book Group for February! Our book is *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver. We will discuss the book on **Wednesday, February 19th at 6:30 pm**. You may check out a copy from the book bag in the music room.

The March book is *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens. We will meet on March 18th. The time may change because of Lent. A library book bag is reserved so you can pick up the book after our February meeting.

COMMUNION ASSISTANT SCHEDULER

We are so very thankful that Brenda Crudele has offered to take on the task of scheduling our 10:30 communion assistants. She would love to add a few names to the list of those willing to help out in the areas of serving communion, bringing bread, communion prep or clean-up. Please contact Brenda or Lynn in the church office if you would be willing to help out in this area.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY – GRADES 9-12

Rainbow Trails Backpacking: June 20th – 28th

This summer Good Shepherd will be sending a group of youth to experience the wonder of God's creation while backpacking in Colorado. By working together, we will hike mountains and grow in community. We will see the world through different eyes when we return. Nine youth and adult leaders are confirmed to go so far. Contact Carole Joyce if you want more information.

We will have a trip meeting on February 5th at 7:30 p.m. for youth and adult leaders.

February 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 **February 12th**. Join us for wonderful fellowship. Thank you to the congregation for your support of high school ministry.

Movie Night

On **Sunday, February 16th**, there will be a high school and young adult movie night. Watch for more information.

EDUCATION

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Second Grade: "What's Fair?" – February 2nd and 9th

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 2nd grade classroom from **9:15 –10:15 a.m. on February 2nd and 9th.**

Kindergartners: The Lord's Prayer (February 16th and 23rd at 9:15 a.m.)

We look forward to seeing kindergartners and their parents learn "The Lord's Prayer" and learn the meaning of this special prayer that Jesus gave us.

We will meet at **9:15 a.m. on February 16th and 23rd.** Gather in the fellowship hall. We will pick a Sunday for our kindergartners to lead the Lord's Prayer during worship service.

Looking ahead to March...

4th Grade: The Apostles' Creed -- March 1st and 8th

Preschool Pray and Play for 3 & 4 Year Olds—March 15th

We are never too young to learn how to pray. Join us at 9:15 as we explore prayer and take home some fun new ways to pray and play together!

1st Grade: God and Gifts -- March 22nd

Kids and parents together will learn about ushering and what happens with money at church. Meet in the sanctuary at 9:30 am on March 22nd. Then sign up to be an usher on a Sunday or Wednesday during Lent

MONTHLY TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study will be meeting at Good Shepherd Church on **February 4th at 1:00 p.m.**

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

VBS 2020



Save the Dates for VBS 2020:

Dates: Monday - Thursday, June 8-11

Time: 6:00 - 7:45 pm

Who: Children currently in Grades Pre K- 4th

Watch for sign up information and volunteer opportunities in next month's newsletter. All youth and adults who would like to help are welcome 4th grade on up!

VBS Planning Team Needed!

We will meet late in February to finalize the theme and begin planning. Skills needed are people with one (or more) of these interests: organized, creative, love Bible stories, love being with children, crafts, snacks, enjoy decorating, enjoy kids' games, fun-loving, and/or music. You don't need them all! Contact Carole Joyce or Karla Appel to help pick the meeting time.

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE BIBLE CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN! **SUPER EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT IS 15% UNTIL FEBRUARY 9TH**

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

See the options and register at goodearthvillage.org. Brochures will also be available at church. Send your registration and deposit directly to Good Earth Village. Then let Carole Joyce or the church office know you are going!

Only want to go for one day and go with Good Shepherd friends? Sign up for July 22nd and we will carpool together. Sign up by mid-March to make sure there is space.

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).

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS

Thank you to all who have filled back packs for PEM school children during December and January. Confirmation students filled them every week. Pastor Krista transported the bags back and forth to the school. The number of bags is growing and we are so thankful that families who need food get it.

The Sunday school students gave \$170 this fall/winter. The money was sent to Good Earth Village Bible camp. This awesome camp in the Spring Valley area serves our young people and Confirmation students go there for the Confirmation retreat. From now until spring their offering will go to hungry kids in PEM through the Angel Lunch program.

A check for \$580.90 was delivered to the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf. This money was collected through the December noisy offering, and from our Advent services offerings. THANKS to all who contributed to the Food Shelf during the month of December.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

02/01	Riley Wendt	02/16	Paul Fick
02/05	Jon Amos	02/17	Jan Fiskum
	Barb Kingsley		Ashton LaBare
	Brynlee Matti	02/18	Franny Schwantz
02/07	Sandy Ulwelling	02/19	Leanne Brevig
	Ashley Schreiber	02/20	Carol Buntrock
	Clayton Weinrich	02/21	Steve Erwin
	Wayne Miller		Justin Gusa
02/08	Laney Gusa		Joe Weinrich
	Piper Schneider	02/22	Buzz Christison
	Tom Welti	02/25	Elaine Salek
02/09	Brenda Crudele		Tom Bianchi
02/10	Neil Weaver	02/26	Kory Bigalk
	Shannon Olstad		Parker Grant
02/11	Ryan King	02/27	Kirk Bartz
	Kirsten Ausman	02/28	Corrine Hanson
02/12	Gina Ihrke		Andrea Masee
02/16	Gracelyn Grant		Landon Gusa
	Cindy Rettmann		

Anniversaries

02/06	Bob & Sue Tangen
	Lee Olson & Marcia Woodward
02/14	Jim & Char Balcome
02/16	Steve Fenske & Carol Goergen-Fenske
	George & Karen Back
02/26	Travis & Gina Ihrke

**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

The most wonderful places to be are in someone's thoughts, someone's prayers, and someone's heart.

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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 March 2020 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21.