

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff



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LENT 2020

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.

ALL WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

THEME: LIVING LOVE

March 4	Loving God
March 11	Loving Creation
March 18	Loving Neighbor
March 25	Loving Yourself
April 1	Love Stronger than Death

**Soup supper starting at 5:30 p.m.
Holden Evening Prayer Worship at 7:00 pm**

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday	April 5, 8:00 & 10:30 AM Between Services: Palm Sunday Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt
Maundy Thursday	April 9, 7:00 PM
Good Friday	April 10, 7:00 PM
Easter Sunday	April 12, 8:00 & 10:30 AM Christ is Risen!

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PASTOR'S NOTE

My family and I are excited to participate in our campaign: “A Place to Belong, Believe, Become.”

I have many favorite places in this world including my parents' place where I grew up, the back porch at Jackson Lake Lodge in the Tetons where I felt God's call to ministry and where my family and I have enjoyed many incredible evenings, and West Glacier, MT where my husband and I spent our first summer of married life and made some incredible friends. When I think about my favorite places, I realize that part of what makes them special is the relationships that were formed in these places. Since people and places seem to go together for me, it's no surprise that **Good Shepherd makes my list of favorite places.**

It is the **people of Good Shepherd that make this place special in so many people's lives.** In any given week, it's easy to look around and see God's presence in and through the people of Good Shepherd who answer God's call and make Good Shepherd into a place to belong, a place to believe and a place to become. **Thank you for being part of the life and ministry of this church and making Good Shepherd the place that it is!**

Out of thanksgiving to God and gratitude for our common ministry, my family and I are making a financial commitment to the 2020 General Fund and the 2020-2023 Capital Campaign “A Place to Belong, Believe, Become.” Would you prayerfully consider joining me in your financial support to our common ministry? In the next couple of weeks you will receive a letter of invitation along with a response form. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or a council member.

Thank you for making Good Shepherd a place of ministry and a blessing to many!

In Christ,

Pastor Krista

CONGREGATION NEWS

CHURCH COUNCIL

Outgoing Council Members

On behalf of the Good Shepherd congregation, we want to thank our outgoing council members Wayne Miller and Jake Thompson for their contribution and hard work as council members. Great job! Good Shepherd appreciates you!

Incoming Council Members

A warm welcome to our new council members Nicole Engler and Todd Wangen! Thank you for your commitment to your church family!

Current Church Council Members and Positions

Kory Bigalk	President	kgbigalk@aol.com
Nicole Engler	Vice President	engler.nicole@mayo.edu
LaVonne Beck	Secretary	lavonnebeck@gmail.com
Tom Anderson	Treasurer & Finance	tom.plainviewfbm@embarqmail.com
Kathy Sukalski	Congregational Life/Youth	sukalskika@gmail.com
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Deb Weinrich	Worship & Music	ddjita@aol.com
Todd Wangen	At Large	sxviper7@yahoo.com
Sue Tangen	At Large	smt812@yahoo.com

Feel free to contact any of the Council members if you have any questions regarding Good Shepherd.

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Don't forget to designate your Choice dollars for 2019 to the nonprofit of your choice. Good Shepherd is on this list and uses these dollars as scholarships for our students attending a Lutheran college.

Choice dollars need to be directed by March 31st. Contact Jake Thompson at 534-3411 if you have questions or need assistance.

GOOD SHEPHERD WEB SITE

Good Shepherd's website is updated regularly. Check it out at

<http://www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org/>

- Find the latest news on the Home page! Find the VBS registration, other summer opportunities, and photos from recent events!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH NEWS

BOOK GROUP IN MARCH

The March book is *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens. A library book bag is reserved so you can pick up books in the music room any time. Discussion will be **Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00 pm**. Note the time change because of the soup supper and Lenten worship. Grab your soup and come into Carole's office for discussion. Anyone who is interested may join the conversation.

The April meeting will be April 15th at 6:30 pm and the book is *The Blue Notebook* by James Levine. A library book bag will be in music room.

BLANKET MAKERS ROAD TRIP MARCH 26

Meet at church at 9:30 am for fun in the Wabasha area. We will visit a couple of quilt shops, chocolate shop, have lunch, visit Nelson Cheese and anything else that inspires us. Return time will be sometime mid-afternoon. Anyone is welcome. Let Carole Joyce know (carole35@charter.net) if you are coming so we have enough drivers.

PALM SUNDAY: EDUCATION HOUR EASTER EGG HUNT & BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 5th, a congregational breakfast will be served starting at 8:30 am. Then at **9:30 am, families are invited to experience the Easter story and join in an Easter egg hunt**. Bring your own basket if you have one. We do have a few here at church. **Palm Sunday worship will be at 8:00 am and 10:30 am as usual.**

Want to donate candy for the egg hunt treats? Bring any donations to church by March 29th.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Coffee Shop is **March 8th**

Thanks in advance to the young people who will lead Holden Evening Prayer at Lenten worship at 7:00 pm each week.

Bible Study: Mark your calendar for a short Bible study after worship on **March 11** for all high school students. We will meet at **7:30 in the music room**. The topic will be "Packing for Life's Journey". **All trip participants need to come since we will weave in some packing tips for the summer trip too.**

Service: Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1 from 5:00 -7 :00 pm. Serving soup suppers and clean up is great fellowship and fun. Join your classmates each Wednesday that you are able. This is a gift we can give our faith community and they LOVE talking to you. The link for sign-up is shown so you can plan what dates you can help out:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yLUuxEvrMJb_btIF_IM-2exbAH8C00gr2f77R4xPggl/edit#gid=0

EDUCATION NEWS

TOGETHER IN FAITH FOR 4TH GRADERS & PARENTS

Sunday, March 1st & 8th at 9:15 am students and parents will explore the Apostles' Creed together. What do we believe? As always, some fun and games are planned as we learn the parts of the creed and what it means. Students will lead the Apostles' Creed at worship at a later date.

TOGETHER IN FAITH FOR PRESCHOOLERS & PARENTS:

Sunday, March 15th, students and parents will **Pray and Play** together as we learn about talking and listening to God. We will learn different kinds of prayers through a fun scavenger hunt. Meet at 9:15 am in the Preschool Sunday school class.

TOGETHER IN FAITH FOR 1ST GRADERS & PARENTS:

Sunday, March 22nd, students and parents will have fun learning about **God & Gifts together.** Meet at 9:15 am in the sanctuary. We will practice ushering too, so you can do that some day soon.

FIRST COMMUNION TRAINING OFFERED

Part of our living as God's people is sharing in the meal that we call the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. During Lent we will be offering First Communion Instruction for all children in 2nd grade and above, with children receiving their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 9th at the 7:00 pm service.

Like Baptism, Holy Communion is a gift of God's grace. There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve either sacrament. Holy Communion is a sacred meal in which we receive Christ's body and blood in the bread and the wine. All children planning to receive their first communion are asked to attend one of the following instruction classes. Our hope is for each student to be accompanied by a parent or another caring adult to share in this learning with their child.

Sunday	March 29	2:00 - 4:00 PM
Thursday	April 2	3:30 - 5:30 PM

Although First Communion and First Communion instruction is offered for children in 2nd grade and above, not every child is ready at this time to receive Communion. We encourage parents and children to be in conversation and pray about whether or not their child is ready to receive this sacrament.

Students participating in First Communion Preparation are invited to **receive their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday Worship service at 7:00 pm, April 9^h.** This is an evening that families have often invited grandparents, baptismal sponsors, and other family members to participate in too. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's readiness to receive Holy Communion, feel free to contact Pastor Krista or Carole Joyce.

EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED ...

EDUCATION MEETING

There will be an Education meeting on **Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00 pm at Kim's in Plainview.**

AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study will meet on **March 3rd at 1:00 pm.** at church.

SIGN UP NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN BIBLE CAMP ADVENTURES THIS SUMMER...

Good Earth Village Bible Camp Registration is Open!

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 for 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.

- The easiest way is to register and pay deposit on-line at goodearthvillage.org
- Brochures are now available 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 mid-March to guarantee the week you want.

VBS 2020

VBS Youth & Adults Needed! VBS is so fun you won't want to miss out!

We are currently looking for youth and adults to help with VBS 2020, which will be held June 8th -11th from 6:00 - 7:45 pm. Shepherd a group of kids, serve snacks, play games, prepare a simple meal, sing and dance along. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net or 269-9374) to sign-up.

EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED ...

**Save the Dates for VBS 2020:
Monday - Thursday, June 8-11
6:00 - 7:45 PM**

Back by popular demand, a simple meal served between 5:25 - 5:50 pm. No more racing to feed your family before coming. Come and eat together before participating in VBS.

Who:

- Children currently in Grades Pre K- 3rd
- Anyone 4th grade and up -- Older siblings and all youth are encouraged to be helpers! Caring adults are needed too.
- We encourage parents and other caring adults -- grandparents, god parents, aunts/uncles, neighbors... to share the experience with a child.

**When: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday night from 6 pm - 7:45 pm.
Meal served starting at 5:25 pm.**

Sign up is coming soon. Contact Carole Joyce (carole35@charter.net or 269-9374) with any questions.

FINANCE NEWS

**Considered On-Line Giving?
Simple – Convenient – No cost – Full Control
One Time Gift or Regular Giving -- (Weekly or Monthly)**

Steps:

Go to our Web-site: www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org

Select **“Give” – Double Click on the Phone –**

Follow the directions -

Once on the Vanco site, you will be given a step by step process:

Create your profile – email address, name, bank routing number and the account you wish to draw from and password etc.

Select your preferred start date, donation date and frequency (weekly, monthly etc.)

Select the fund(s) you wish to contribute to: General, Building Fund, Youth etc.

(You can alter your contribution at any time by going to this site)

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Tom Anderson – 507-993-8236 or Tom.plainviewfbm@gmail.com.

Thank you for contributing to the ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP NEWS

NOISY OFFERING + Minnesota Food Share's March Campaign = FOOD for the HUNGRY!!!

The second Sunday of every month we collect a NOISY OFFERING. This noisy offering is given to a designated charity. Our March noisy offering is always specified to go to the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf.

Cash/Check donations are the best way to contribute to the Food Shelf because of the access the Food Shelf has to distribution programs that allow them TREMENDOUS buying power with your cash donations; however, food items will not be turned away. If you are able to help, please write out an extra check, made out to Good Shepherd and place it in the offering plate in addition to your regular offering. Note "food shelf" on the memo. At the end of the March, Good Shepherd will forward one check to the PEM Food Shelf to help with their March Campaign. Along with March's noisy offering, the Lenten offerings will also be directed to the Food Shelf.

GOD'S WORK: OUR HANDS

Thanks to all who packed and contributed to the Care Packages sent to our post high school youth. 30 packages were distributed. Each had personalized notes, Valentines, and other goodies. Thanks to everyone who helped pack, brought treats, and made Valentines. Thanks to the Kingsley and Tesmer families and Thrivent for the action teams which provided postage and more.

Did you know that ALL of Good Shepherd's Wednesday night Lenten offerings go to the PEM Food Shelf? Please take this opportunity to do God's work -- feeding the hungry. A special thank you to the many Good Shepherd members who volunteer regularly at the Food Shelf.

Thank you to the Good Shepherd families for providing food for the Lenten soup suppers. A special thanks to the youth for setting up and cleaning up. Any donations will go to the summer trip and mission outreach by the youth.

Noisy Offerings: February's noisy offering went to the Good Earth Village. They received a check for \$161.40.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

3rd-6th grade volunteers needed! We want to find some "big kids" to help support, encourage and be great leaders for our PreK-2nd graders. This will not be a huge commitment and we will try to make it as convenient as possible. We need your input and voice on special parts to support the Sunday school music of the younger kids. We have a song list and want you to help pick out the songs that we will sing. Practice (tentatively) will be at **10:00 - 10:15 am** on a couple of Sunday mornings and you will sing at the 10:30 worship services on April 5th and May 10th with the younger group. We will forward you the music and lyrics to practice with. All are welcome and we encourage you to participate with a church friend if you are more comfortable with that. Contact Sherry Tuxen at s.tuxen44@gmail.com if your child can help!



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

03/02	Erin Bluhm		03/17	Gary Melbostad
	Jordyn Anderson		03/19	Bonnie McMillin
03/04	Ellen Miller		03/21	Kathy Sukalski
03/06	Owen Johnson			Kenton Dick
	Brady Wehrs		03/23	Carson Rahman
	Harper Schneider		03/24	Marc Anderson
03/07	Jackie Welti			Joe Suntken
03/09	Dan Madsen		03/25	Jan Sackreiter
03/10	Diane Fick			Mason Rahman
03/11	Jayden Munsch			Matt Dick
	Austin Engler		03/26	Craig Beck
03/12	Jacob Suntken		03/27	Tina Wangen
03/13	Bob Shanks		03/28	Roger Rettmann
	Jason Melbostad			Jesalynn Bluhm
03/14	Lukas Klennert		03/29	Marget Christison
03/15	Michelle Wendt		03/30	Khloe Peter
	Patty Fritz			Ava Steele

Anniversaries

03/15	Allen & Dawn Breuer
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*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.

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Don't judge someone because they sin differently than you.

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PO Box 355
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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 April 2020 Newsletter is

MONDAY, MARCH 23.