

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Shepherd's Staff

LENT

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Lent kits will be available for all ages. You are encouraged to take one for yourself and for another family or someone living at home who would appreciate being connected during this season.

LENT SCHEDULE 2021

**Ash Wednesday
February 17 at 7:00 pm**

Service of Worship with
Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Communion

Attend worship in the building,
listen in the parking lot and drive up for ashes and communion,
or watch online at home.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY SERVICES IN LENT – 7:00 PM

Half hour service of worship

February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday	March 28
Maundy Thursday	April 1
Good Friday	April 2
Easter Sunday	April 4

Contact Information

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 355
Plainview MN, 55964
(507) 534-3675
www.goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org

Pastor: Krista Henning-Ferkin
Office Hours: Vary
Email: Krista.goodshepherd@gmail.com
Phone: (507)534-3675 (office)
(605)480-2325 (cell)

Cong. Administrator: Karen Anderson
Office Hours: Vary
Email: secretary@goodshepherdlutheran-plainview.org
Phone: (507)534-3675

Passing on Faith Facilitator: Carole Joyce
Office Hours: Vary
Email: carole35@charter.net
Home Phone: (507) 288-0551
Cell Phone: (507) 269-9374
Office Hours: Vary
Email: carole35@charter.net

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PASTOR'S NOTE

I love story time. I remember my mom reading to me and helping me find books at the library. When I was in elementary school teachers would read to us. Even when I was a junior in high school, my English teacher would read to our class, and that was our favorite part of the class. I loved reading some of my favorite books to my children, and I loved listening in as my husband read to our children and did all sorts of different voices for the characters in a book.

There's something about a really good story. It's not just kids that love stories. We adults love a good story too. A good story captures us and our imaginations. A good story invites us in, inspires us, and even challenges us. Stories can help us make sense of the world around us and help us discover our place in this world.

And the best story of all is God's story.

God is at work in the world, loving us and giving us life. The center of this story is best known through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but we find this story of God's gifts of love and life throughout the scriptures. Through the people we meet in the Bible, we see ourselves and discover something about ourselves.

In addition, God's story includes each and every one of us. God has chosen to make us a part of the story of saving love and life.

Through the season of Lent, we will explore, "God's Story, Our Story." On Sunday mornings we will be hearing some of the great stories from scripture and during our Wednesday evening Lenten services we will be hearing faith stories from people in the congregation. By listening to "God's Story, Our Story" we discover that God is not merely a storyteller. God is actually the main actor of all these stories. Through the faith stories we hear from scripture and one another we learn more about what God has done, is doing and will do. By hearing the stories from scripture and one another, we learn more about how God is the author of our story too.

Come and hear these stories and consider how God is at work in your life.

In Christ,
Pastor Krista

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – 9 AM Sundays or anytime after

- Listen in the parking lot to radio station 88.3 FM.
- In person in the building 9 AM Sunday morning or worship online:
- YouTube: We are trying to post live so that worship can be watched at 9 am on Sundays or anytime after: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=good+shepherd+lutheran+church+%2C+Plainview%2C+C+Mn or try <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbUP9UrAzhhXWo078UXGXPQ>
You may need to scroll for the correct service.

We have had trouble with the uploading of the service the last couple of weeks. Hopefully this week will go better. We are doing the same things on our end so there may have been a glitch on their end.

- Facebook Live at 9 am or available anytime after.
- Channel 20 on Mid Continent in Plainview.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

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 *Mornings with Rosemary* by Libby Page. We will discuss the book on **Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 pm**. You may check out a copy from the book bag in Carole Joyce's office.

The March book is *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger and we will meet on March 11. A library book bag is reserved so you can pick up the book after our February meeting.

FAMILY & YOUTH SKI DAY AT COFFEE MILL—FEBRUARY 15

Spend President's Day, **Monday, February 15**, skiing with others from Good Shepherd. We are not able to offer rides, but maybe some carpooling can be organized. Here are the details: Coffee Mill is open from noon – 8:00 pm.

- Come at 11:00 am to purchase tickets, get skis, and get ready to head out.
- Families with kids of any ages are welcome!
- Youth are welcome. You must have a parent waiver from Coffee Mill website completed to ski!
- Carole Joyce will hang out in the chalet (which is open to 50% capacity) from 11 am-5 pm.
- Lift tickets \$24, Ski rental \$15. Tell them you are with Good Shepherd when purchasing your tickets that day.

Please let Carole Joyce know if you are planning to come. We need 20 to get these rates.

MILESTONE BLANKET WORK DAY

Nothing is more fun on a cold winter day than hanging out with friends (distanced and masked). Spend **Thursday, February 16** 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.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY – Grades 9-12

No soup suppers to serve this year. So let's get together to connect, talk summer, and tie fleece blankets for a service project instead – **Wednesday, February 24 at 7:30 pm**.

EDUCATION

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 AM

Topic: The Gospel of Mark

Join us via Zoom as we discover the Good News of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Mark.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940295537?pwd=RkdaVWlnRVdCRnhzWWRZb0VZTlhMZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 4029 5537 Passcode: Bible

SUNDAY SCHOOL & EDUCATION NEWS

We will hold milestone age level events on Sunday mornings from 9:45 - 10:30 am starting in Mid-February. We have plenty of space to distance and learn in family groups. Siblings of other ages are welcome to join their family.

- Feb 21 2nd grade--It's Not Fair
- Feb 28 1st grade—God & Money
- March 7 Kindergarten—Lord's Prayer

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Second Grade: "It's Not Fair!" – February 21 at 9:45 am

Kids and parents will talk about one of life's greatest frustrations—that life is not fair! We are looking forward to seeing you and your child at the special class for second graders and their parents, Discover together how to cope with life's unfairness and learn what God considers the fair facts. We will meet in the sanctuary.

1st Grade: God and Gifts—February 28

Kids and parents together will learn about how to better handle money and the choices we make with money. Meet in the sanctuary at **9:45 am on February 28**.

Kindergartners: The Lord's Prayer—March 7

We look forward to seeing kindergarteners and their parents to learn "The Lord's Prayer" and about the meaning of this special prayer that Jesus gave us. Meet at **9:45 am** in the worship space at church.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

SAVE THE DATES: VBS 2021

We look forward to holding VBS this spring! Three days of outside fun for kids and parents or caring adult. Of course we will be flexible as needed, but we are hopeful we can have a picnic meal, Bible story, games, and crafts/science in small groups!

Monday - Wednesday, June 14-16 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

- Children currently in Grades Pre K- 4th
- All youth and adults who would like to help are welcome 4th grade on up!
- Watch for sign up information and volunteer opportunities in March.

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.

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 these 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. We will offer the class as many times as needed so families can learn in small groups. So far we have set aside

- Sunday, March 21 from 9:45 - 10:45 am
- Tuesday, March 23 from 3:30 - 4:30 pm
- Saturday, March 27 from 10:00 -11:00 am

Sign up on this Doodle poll so we know what times you are available and if we need to add more classes.

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. 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.

We have several choices for those who receive instruction to take their First Communion. You may choose from the following options:

- Palm Sunday, March 28 at the 9:00 am worship service
- Maundy Thursday, April 1 at the 7:00 pm worship service
- Easter Sunday, April 4 at the 8:00 am worship or at the 9:30 am outdoor worship

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

A check for \$1828.03 was delivered to the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf. This money was collected through the November/December noisy offering, money collected from Sunday school for the winter/spring months, and some individual donations.

THANKS to all who contributed to the Food Shelf during the November/December months.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

02/06	Bob & Sue Tangen
	Lee Olson & Marcia Woodward
02/14	Jim & Char Balcome
02/16	Steve Fenske & Carol Goergen-Fenske
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

**You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can
start where you are and change the ending.**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

PO Box 355
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 March 2021 Newsletter is

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19.