



October/November 2017

651.451.6225

Generosity – Fueling God’s Work

A friend shared the following article regarding stewardship, which I referred to in my sermon on October 4 --

In a paper published in the journal *Science*, researchers ran experiments that tested the effects of charitable giving. They found out that giving money away makes people happy! In one experiment, the researchers gave people \$5 or \$20 bills and assigned them to spend the money by 5 p.m. on either themselves or someone else. Regardless of the amount of money they received, those who gave the money away reported a significant uptick in their happiness compared to when their day started. Those who spent the money on themselves did not. The findings of this study, and others like it, flip conventional wisdom on its ear. Advertising, for example, tells us that we’ll be much happier if we spend money on ourselves.

Sociologists who work on this stuff think it has to do with the fact we humans are social creatures, and giving establishes social bonds, which trumps conventional economic wisdom. When we increase our social bonds by giving to others in need, we in turn feel better because we see ourselves as more intimately a part of a community. (In this context – we call community the ‘church’) What is more, people who have a close-knit community tend to be happier. Material things, on the other hand, offer us transient ties that eventually wear out and are trashed. Money can’t buy happiness, as the old adage goes, but giving it away just might!

Throughout the month of October, we are sharing different perspectives and real-life stories (thank you Solveig, Greg and Jen) of how JOY is experienced knowing GENEROSITY to others in the community ‘FUELS GOD’S WORK’ throughout the world. Through these personal examples we understand our Estimated Giving for 2018 is not about giving until it hurts, but rather *giving until it feels really good*. For as Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7, “*God loves a cheerful giver*”. Our generous giving to the church is a gift bringing us joy because it brings others joy, which makes our community, our church, hum with possibility.

THANK YOU for your generous participation in joyfully giving to the 2018 Operational Budget. At the end of October, you will receive a stewardship letter from the Executive Team, along with your estimated giving card. We ask you return your estimated giving card before or on CONSECRATION SUNDAY, November 12 when Bishop Patricia Lull will be our guest preacher. Your estimate of giving will help leadership better plan how FUELING GOD’S WORK can best happen in 2018 in your community.

THANK YOU!
Pastor Leesa

Service to Others

Walk to End Hunger at MOA Thanksgiving Morning

Join Pastor Leesa and Eliana on their 10th year walking with 40,000 others to stomp out hunger at a family-friendly 5K fun walk. Pastor Leesa and Eliana will be at the Starbucks, lower level, at the MOA at 7:00 a.m. to begin their walk at 7:30 a.m. This is a great way to start your holiday off right – giving back before you give thanks! 100% of the net proceeds are donated to various organizations. This year, Pastor Leesa encourages you to choose Neighbors Inc. Registration fee is \$25.00. Register on-line as an individual Hunger Fighter at www.walktoendhunger.org.

Operation Christmas Child



Here is your chance to make a child's Christmas a happy and merry one. Last year Operation Christmas Child distributed more than seven million shoeboxes throughout the world. Good Shepherd members donated almost 200 of those. Let's try and do even better this year.

We have obtained 200+ Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and instructional brochures. Our children and youth will be assembling boxes. There will be two tables set up at the entrances attended by Social Ministry team members where the empty boxes will be handed out and filled ones collected. There will also be demonstration boxes and lists of suggested items. We will be handing out and collecting shoeboxes on **Sunday October 22nd, October 29th and November 5th**. You may also pick up and/or drop off boxes in the church office during the week. If you wish to participate please keep in mind that the filled boxes must be returned to church no later than **November 15** in order for us to get them to our drop off destination on time. Thank you and God bless!

Church Building & Office Hours

The church **building** is open during the following times:
Monday - Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm (office hours)
Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 4:00pm to 9:00pm.
If you or a community guest needs to reserve room space or needs access to the building at other times, please contact the church office during office hours to make arrangements.

Online Giving with SecureGive

SecureGive is a convenient option for members and non-members to give their tithes and offerings electronically. SecureGive allows you to use your credit or debit card for your gifts, allowing you to pay the same way you do for just about everything else. You may also sign up for an electronic funds transfer from your checking account. To give a one time gift or set up recurring gifts, visit www.goodshepherdigh.com and click Online Giving at the top of the page.

Next Newsletter Info

Our next newsletter will be mailed out on November 16. Articles are due in the church office by November 12.

Worship

Wednesday Evening Advent Soup Suppers

The Adult Ministry team invites you to come enjoy a soup dinner and fellowship before our Advent services this year. Dinner will be served on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 from Nov 29 to Dec 20.

Advent Worship will begin at 6:30.

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday November 26

8:00, 9:15 & 10:30

As we bring out the symbols of Advent and Christmas in preparation for the season, this service will not only allow you to participate in the placement of 'décor' but will teach you the reason we have the symbol specially placed in our worship space for the Christmas season.

Following worship, people are invited to add an ornament or two to our narthex trees.
(Ornaments provided)

Giving Tree

Support Neighbors Inc this Christmas Season by bringing unwrapped mittens, gloves and scarves for our Giving Tree.

The greatest needs are:

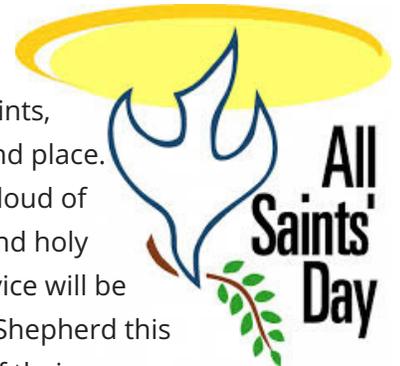
- Waterproof Mittens/Gloves: All sizes from toddler to adult (especially boys ages 4-7)
- Hats: Infant, Toddler for boys and girls, Kids ages 4-8 esp girls
- Scarves: Infant, Toddler, Kids ages 4-8 especially boys

Worship in November

All Saints Sunday

November 5 @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30

All Saints is a day of remembrance for the saints, meaning all Christian people of every time and place. On this Sunday, we will celebrate the 'great cloud of witnesses' with a candle lighting ceremony and holy communion, but a special portion of the service will be remembering those who have died at Good Shepherd this year with a tolling of a bell and the reading of their name.



Consecration of Gifts Sunday ~ Generosity Fuel's God's Work

November 12 @ 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30

We have been talking throughout the month of October how Generosity Fuels God's Work. Your gifts support our Operational Budget which pays not only for terrific ministry programs like Worship, Service to Others, Life Long Learning and Social Events, but also basic needs to like electricity, paper, toilet paper, furnace filters; things we take for granted but are very necessary in running the church. Consider your "Cheerful Giving" to Fuel God's Work by completing the Estimated Giving Card which was mailed to your home at the end of October. Return it by 'Consecration of Gifts Sunday' on November 12, when Bishop Lull from the Saint Paul Area Synod will be preaching at Good Shepherd.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Fellowship ~ November 22 @ 6:30pm

Let us give our thanks and praise to God for the abundance we are given throughout the year. We will have a beautifully blended style of worship, honoring both traditional and contemporary sights and sounds as we gather around the communion table with our children and youth who receive this gift of grace for the very first time. Following worship, we will have pie in the Commons. If you are willing to share a pie, sign-up at the Welcome Center.

Blue Christmas Worship

Weds, Nov 29 @ 6:30pm & Sun, Nov 3 @ 5:30pm

As we begin a season that shouts, "Joy!" We acknowledge that for many people the Christmas season is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation and sadness. This service offers a way for people to claim those feelings and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God. We ask Adult Prayer Pals worship with their Youth Prayer Pal at one of these services, which will be followed by a guided discussion. Jacob will distribute information as the service approaches.

Other News



Action Teams & Choice Dollars

Do you have an investment account or insurance policy with Thrivent? Then you may be eligible to give back through Thrivent Programs!

~ Thrivent Action Teams make it easy to bring a team of volunteers together to make a difference in your community. Who you help is up to you! You can hold a fundraiser, plan a service project or organize an educational event. It's your choice - and your chance to let your creativity and generosity shine! Thrivent helps make it happen by sending you a kit to help you get started. They will even include a Community Impact Card loaded with \$250 in seed money. This year, one of our members has donated their Community Action Dollars to Good Shepherd's Social Ministry team to be used to fill Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes!

~ With Thrivent Choice Dollars, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, more than \$330 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide. Contact the church office for more information, grab a pamphlet from Good Shepherd's literature rack or visit www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/ today to learn more about these programs!

Prayer, Care & Support Corner

Thank you to all who signed up on Building Dedication Sunday to be 'Prayer Companions' on our newly formed prayer chain. We now have twenty participants. Weekly requests are forwarded via email to Prayer Companions. This ministry is simply including the prayer needs with your prayers or just sending thoughts of blessings during your week. We also invite anyone interested in joining us in this amazing prayer chain to call Cathie @ 651.968.6469.

If you are interested in asking for a prayer request, you can email prayerconcerns@goodshepherdigh.com or call Pastor Leesa. Prayer requests can remain confidential with Pastor Leesa or forwarded to the Prayer Companions. *We feel Prayer Companions have a heart for God, a heart for prayer, a heart for people and a heart for Christ's church. Therefore, we pray continually and trust God answers each prayer according to God's perfect will and timing.*

Please check out our Care and Prayer tab on the church website. We are offering many ministries of support.

Baptism Classes

Baptisms are a declaration of God's grace and we want you to discuss this extraordinary gift with your child for years to come! If you're planning to have your child baptized at Good Shepherd and it's your first child baptized with us, you should consider attending our baptism class, which is offered on November 5 or December 3 from 11:15-12:15 in Meeting Room 2. If you are planning to attend a class, please email the church office at admin@goodshepherdigh.com

Baptisms

Whitney Ann Fumich 9.3.17
Child of Jon & Kristelle Fumich

Bradley Steven Hogenson 9.10.17
Child of Brian & Andrea Hogenson

Hudson James Miller 9.10.17
Child of Tanner & Breanna Miller

Bode Benjamin Tourville 9.17.17
Child of Ben & Chelsa Tourville

Rylie Jean Ellingson 9.24.17
Child of Joshua & Natalie Ellingson

Marriages

Kaylee Jodene Boyer &
Jalen Lemar Patterson
9.23.17

Funerals

Robert G Palechek, age 75
9.7.17
Richard A Clare, age 72
9.23.17

Adult Ministry



Oktoberfest Update

On Sunday, October 8th, the Adult Ministry team hosted our first Oktoberfest event. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered to make the event possible and to all who attended. It was a fun day of great fellowship and food. If you have ideas or suggestions for next year, please let the Adult Ministry team know.

Women of Good Shepherd

Our next Bible Study and meeting will be held on November 7 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room 1. We will finish studying Esther and move on to Matthew.

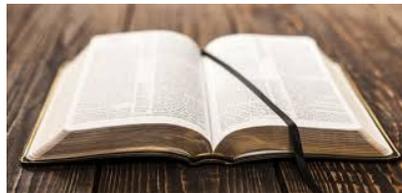
Game Night!

Fall is in the air and it's time to think "fun and fellowship"! The Adult Ministry team would like to invite you to join us on Thursday, October 26 & November 30 at 6:00pm for an evening of cards and games. Please bring a dish to share, in Norwegian fashion, for a light supper before we start our games. Feel free to bring your favorite game to share as well. contact Jim Smeby 651.492.1738 or Linda Baker 651.455.6225 with questions.

Sister Act at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

On Saturday, December 16th join others for the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier a wannabe diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a crime and the cops hide her away in the last place anyone would expect – a convent!. A bus will pick up those attending at the church at approximately 10:00 am and return at approximately 4:30 pm. The cost is \$94 which includes transportation, dinner and the show.

To reserve your spot, call 651-383-4244 or send a check to: Big Dreams, 7613 Blackwell Ct. North, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076. Please make your reservations before November 16th and be sure to note that you are with the Good Shepherd group.



Good Shepherd Bible Study Offerings

- 8-week study of the Gospel of Matthew with Pastor Leesa
Tuesdays at 6:30pm & Thursdays at 10:00am
- Sunday Morning at 9:15 bible study with Pastor Jerry
- 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month at 10 am - Women's Bible Study on the the book of Galatians
- Thursday evenings at 7 pm on the Story of Scripture
- 1st Tuesday of the Month - Women of Good Shepherd on Esther
- Yoga and a Fireside Chat on Mondays at 6:30pm

For more information contact the church office or visit our website.

Annual Craft Fair ~ November 17 & 18

Be sure to stop by Good Shepherd's Craft Fair on Nov 17 from 11am to 6pm or Nov 18 from 9am to 3pm. Proceeds from the table rentals and luncheon will be given to Good Shepherd's Ministry Teams to use for their numerous ministry offerings.

If you would like to participate in the show, the cost is \$20.00 for one day or \$30 for both. An 8 foot table will be provided. Please contact Linda Baker for the forms at 651.455.8043.

Inter†Gen

Trunk or Treat Weds, Oct 25 6:30 - 8:00



Guests dress in non-scary costumes for 6:30 outdoor worship around a campfire! After which there will be an exciting time of Trunk or Treating around the parking lot by visiting decorated vehicles. Many volunteers are needed to provide trunks with candy, help with snacks, traffic control and the campfire. Sign ups are located at the Welcome and Inter†Gen desks plus at children@goodshepherdigh.com Trunks need to be ready for judging at 6:15pm. The categories are; The Best Child Friendly Theme, The Best Biblical Theme, The Best Movie, Book or TV Theme and The Most Original Theme. In case of inclement weather – we will shift this event to inside of the church.

Inter†Gen Worship News

Thursday, October 26~Auditions & Music Practice for the Inter†Gen Christmas Program (5:30-7:30)

People from Kindergarten and up are invited to join together to form the wonderful cast of actors, singers and dancers that will perform “The Power of the King” Christmas musical on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30pm and Sunday, December 17 at 5:30pm. Most rehearsals will be on Thursdays from 5:30-7:30. Sign up by October 15 so we can adjust the script to have enough parts for all who are interested. children@goodshepherdigh.com

Sunday, October 29~Jubilee Worship Sunday “500th Reformation Day”(8:00, 9:15 & 10:30)

Our Good Shepherd Lutheran Inter†Gen Ministry Team strongly encourages families to worship together as often as possible. On Jubilee Sundays, instead of attending education classes at 9:15, people of all ages are asked to come together at the services to praise and thank God through a special theme with special activities. Please plan on joining us as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran denomination! Children and Youth will be leading the congregation in a song, Children in Grade 3 who complete Bible instruction will receive their Bibles, plus it is New Member Sunday!

Nursery Care

The Nursery Team will provide a loving, caring, safe and fun environment for children 6 weeks - 4 years of age while parents participate in worship or other special activities. Hours are Sundays during the 9:15 and 10:30 services plus during evening Advent services on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 and Sundays from 5:30-6:30.

First Communion Instruction Class

Sunday, November 5

12:30am-2:30pm

or

Sunday, November 12

11:30-1:30pm

This class regarding the Sacrament of Holy Communion is open to people of all ages, which is current with the ELCA's communication regarding First Communion. A meal will be provided followed by an overview for those receiving the Sacrament for the first time and others wanting a refresher on its message. Participants are asked to attend both Celebrations of

1st Communion:

Wednesday, November 22

@6:30pm

Sunday, December 3

8:00, 9:15 or 10:30am.

Inter†Gen

Affirmation of Baptism

On October 29, the following 9th graders will Affirm their Baptismal Covenant during a confirmation worship service at 1:00pm

Brandon Baars
Cooper Bollman
Mitchell Borrowmann
Andrew Bosin
Zoe Boughton
Emma Cleveland
McKenzie Cook
Ryan Eckstrom
Brooke Finley
Nathan Fischer
Cayle Friemann
Nate Germaine
Makenna Glass
Lauren Glenna
Brekken Grathen
Callie Gustafson
Jenna Hein
Andrew Jeffers
Amanda Kneer
Erin Orn
Zach Painter
Taylor Pawlenty
Sophie Roche
Brynn Rogers
Zack Schmitz
Zach Soule
Kyle Swearingen
Natalie Taufen
Dominic Thone
Alex VanDyke
Kaylen Vitch
Brooke Von Berge
Justin Warrick
Griffin Wormer

Real Food, Real People with Shobi's Table

Weds, October 18



An event for the entire family! Join us on Wednesday, October 18 as we take time to create meals and relationships with the guidance of Shobi's Table, a ministry of the St. Paul Area Synod! Where church comes in the form of a food truck, Shobi's Table is "a ministry of, by, and for folks struggling on the margins in St. Paul." Not only will you have the opportunity to make an authentic food truck meal, but you will also hear stories of real people who have struggled with homelessness and how you can be a voice for change in your community. This event will take place at Good Shepherd Lutheran on Wednesday, October 18 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Please bring a suggested donation of \$5. Any children younger than grade 6 ought to be accompanied by an adult. All are welcome around Shobi's Table.

Affirmation of Faith Celebration

All 9th grade youth will have the opportunity to affirm their faith during a special worship service on Sunday, October 29 at 1:00pm. All family, godparents and friends are invited to come and support our youth as they publicly affirm the promises given to them at the time of their baptism. Photos will be held after the worship service. We ask that youth arrive at 12:30pm to get robes and flowers ready.

9th Grade Confirmation Guides

A big THANK YOU to the following guides for all the time and effort you put forth fostering relationships with these youth: Jessica Andel, Pete Cleary, Jenni Germaine, Christine Schmitz and Robyn Vitch.

Children & Youth

Confirmation Prayer Pal Tailgate

Come huddle around for the first Prayer Pal gathering of the year! Confirm Faith youth will meet and connect with their Prayer Pals while also cheering on our favorite Minnesota football team. But no need to be a Vikings or football fan, we will have plenty of activities for everyone! "Tailgating" begins at 11:30 AM on October 22.

Senior High Gustavus Retreat

Join us on this quick getaway from November 4-5 as we retreat to Gustavus Adolphus College for a time to Pause, Renew and Experience Sabbath. We are partnering with other churches in the Twin Cities for this opportunity as we intentionally walk together through spiritual renewal and stress relief practices for when life gets busy.

"Twisted Thanksgiving" Special Ministry Event

Grades 3, 4 & 5 on Sunday, November 19 ~ 11:30-1:30pm

Children are asked to bring a food to share that starts with the first letter of their last name for the feast. We will learn about the history of Thanksgiving before we play fun games and make a group project of what we are thankful for. Several parents and youth are needed to help with the fun.

"Gingerbread Houses" Special Ministry Event

Grades K, 1 & 2 on Sunday, November 26 ~ 11:30-1:30pm

Children and helpers will enjoy a holiday lunch and then decorate cute gingerbread houses to display & snack on throughout the holiday season. There will be a small supply charge for attending this event. Parents and youth are needed to help with the fun.

Thanksgiving Potato Packing with Union Gospel Mission

On Thursday, November 16th from 7pm - 10pm Senior High Youth are invited to serve together with our neighboring youth groups to join UGM and help with packing potatoes and food bags for distribution. Take some time and give back to your community this holiday season! This opportunity will take place at the Men's Campus in St Paul.

Montana Mission Experience Meeting, Sunday, Nov 12 @ 11:30am

Participants for the Mission Experience will meet every second Sunday of the month for team building, community learning and fundraising efforts. This month we will prepare for a favorite, annual fundraising effort, World's Finest Chocolate! Come to find out more about how to defray costs for this year's journey.

Youth Moments from Benton Harbor

Throughout this week I learned many things and gained many new experiences. Something that surprised me was there were not a lot of pets around, not many white people, and a lot of nice cars. Also, all the people we met, like Jerry, Bill, and Ms. Bonita. They were all so nice and I could see the Holy Spirit within them; they also gave me so much life advice. What I learned about myself is that I'm more confident in myself than I thought. I thought I would be more shy, but I had so much fun talking to people and connecting with them. I also learned that God will always be with you and he will always guide you in the right direction, away from evil. From all the people in the community I learned to have faith and trust in God. Another thing I learned is to never judge a book by its cover. I want to pray for anyone who is struggling or in trouble, and pray that they find God in their life. I believe I am different now than before I came. Have more of an open mind and am more trusting in people. While in Benton Harbor, I also made so many memories with my friends. I made new friends as well. It was so much fun to spread God's word together and have so many new experiences. I hope to continue to spread God's love to others in my community when I get back, buy myself and with others, because part of our purpose is to love and serve others and that's exactly what I'll do. ~Kate Herrera