

January/February 2018

651.451.6225

I have a pastoral tradition each new year, at Epiphany. Epiphany is the season we are called to see God revealing God's self, much of the time, through us. Therefore, when I turn the calendar to January, I traditionally look back to see the ways we have revealed God's light to others. As I reflect, I give thanks!

In no particular order,

- We collected extra funds (almost \$20,000) for organizations like Lifewater, Shobi's Table, Lutheran Disaster Relief and Neighbors, Inc. Organizations like these help people who have had their home flooded or on fire, who are hungry and living on the streets, who are young and without a home to shelter them or are sick and need a ride to medical appointments. **THANK YOU for being Christ's Light.**
- We had kids fold 224 shoe boxes, families and friends fill 224 shoeboxes full of goodies and adults deliver 224 shoe boxes of love to Operation Christmas Child. The Salvation Army helped us send Christmas Love across the globe.
- **THANK YOU for being Christ's Light.**
- We joined neighboring Lutheran churches at the Union Gospel Mission to pack 757 bags of potatoes for a Thanksgiving feast. Earlier in the fall, we gathered in our kitchen to make hundreds of sandwiches for the Union Gospel Mission staff to hand out to clients who will need lunch while on the street.
- **THANK YOU for being Christ's Light.**
- We had a group wake up extra-extra early on Thanksgiving morning to join with thousands of other Minnesotans to 'Walk to End Hunger' because we do not want another day to go by where we hear 1 in 6 children in our state goes without adequate nutrition. **THANK YOU for being Christ's Light.**
- The church defrayed the cost of this year's mission trip for 30 youth and adults who went to serve and change lives in the poverty stricken community of Benton Harbor, Michigan. **THANK YOU for being Christ's Light.**
- We supported an ecumenical ministry coalition in IGH collect school supplies and back packs so every child in our school district would start off school with what he or she needed to succeed. **THANK YOU for being Christ's Light.**
- A group from Good Shepherd spent the day at our local Cub Foods helping Neighbors Inc smash their goal of receiving 3000 pounds of food. We made oodles and oodles of birthday bags so our neighbors at Neighbors Inc can blow out candles on a chocolate cake and open a present on their special day. What is more, we donated \$15,000 to Neighbors Inc to do local ministry.
- **THANK YOU for being Christ's Light.**

- Our high school youth spent 'Interfaith Day of Service' at CAIR Minnesota, a Minneapolis organization that helps fight intolerance and seek justice for all people. **THANK YOU for being Christ's Light.**
- This Christmas, we filled an entire trunk with warm hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. Plus you gave \$2000 worth of gift cards! All of which was delivered to Rezek House, a transitional housing program for 16-21 year olds who would be homeless without this Lutheran Social Services organization. **THANK YOU for being Christ's Light.**
- This year we budgeted a portion of our benevolence to give to the Saint Paul Area Synod of the ELCA, to which we belong. The benevolence support allows us to participate in global ministries to places like Guatemala and Tanzania, help Lutherans struggling after a disaster, support our Lutheran Colleges and Seminaries, stop hunger and housing instability in the Twin Cities, be a bridge to refugees and more. **THANK YOU for being Christ's Light.**

Jesus said and Matthew recorded, "*Let your light shine before others,*" that wasn't the whole sentence. He went on to give the reason why it's important to shine: "*so they may see your good works and give glory to God!*" Throughout 2017, you have gave glory to God by being a beacon of Christ's Light through your generosity and acts of kindness! This year, let's do more of the same!

THANK YOU!!
Pastor Leesa



Lent Worship: Water Marks

In the beginning, a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ~ Genesis 1

From the first chapter of the Bible to the last, God's Word is water marked. During the season of Lent, you are invited to hear and experience God's Word for us through a myriad of Bible passages about water.

Every Wednesday during Lent, beginning February 14 we will offer
two worship services - 12:00pm and 6:30pm.

An hour prior to both worship times, a simple Soup Meal will be served.

Other News

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.

Staff Emails

Pastor Leesa pastorleesa@goodshepherdigh.com

Pastor Jerry pastorjerry@goodshepherdigh.com

Andrea Swainey admin@goodshepherdigh.com

Jacob Niewinski youth@goodshepherdigh.com

Karen Davis children@goodshepherdigh.com

Bobbie Radi children@goodshepherdigh.com

Lisa Langton music@goodshepherdigh.com

Prayer, Care & Support Corner

A man named Russ Robinson described in graphic detail a car accident he and his wife were in. I will spare you those excruciating details. What I will tell you is what struck me the most was their response. They both immediately call a group they were involved in at their church, as well as the church "prayer chain."

Here is how Russ describes what that came to mean: *Their prayer support helped me begin the road to emotional recovery. The community listened during long conversations while I tried to process confusing emotions. When I wrestled with God - seeking to make sense of the experience - people offered reassurance and other help. I needed people to pray with and for me, and I came to know what it was to have someone "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15). I experienced how the body of Christ can extend real, personal hands and voice to and for someone in pain.*

Their experience affirms the need to find ways at church to be involved in serving and learning and fellowship, all of which provides you with important relationships to hold you up when you are in need.

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 February 4 or March 4 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

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 28 at 11:30am

Please join us for our annual business meeting of the church, where you will receive highlights of 2017 and visions for 2018. Annual reports will be available at the Welcome Center on January 21.



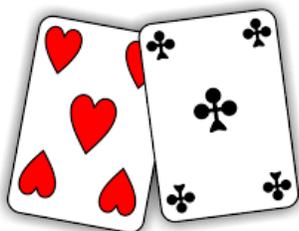
Adult Ministry

YogaDevotion Mondays at 6:30pm

The next 8-week session of YogaDevotion began on January 8. It is not too late to join! Classes begin with breathing and devotions. The body of the class is a combination of standing, balance and floor poses. We use music in our classes as well as silence to intentionally listen for God's voice. Classes meet in the InterGen 3 room. Stop by for a class to check it out! For more information, visit the Adult Ministry page at goodshepherdigh.com. You can sign up under the Contact Us menu or in class.

Game Night!

Please join us on Thursday, January 25 at 6:30pm. You are invited to enjoy playing Phase 10, 500 and Yahtzee. If you have other games you would like to play and are willing to teach others, please bring them and join us! Please bring a dish to share for a light supper before we begin the games.



CPR, AED & First Aid Training

**Sunday, March 4
11:30am**



Kevin Malecek, a paramedic with Allina Health Systems, has offered to provide this valuable training. Along with teaching us how to give CPR using mannequins and providing basic first aid training, he will give instructions on how to use Good Shepherd's AED machine in the event of a heart attack. Training will take place in the Hall at Good Shepherd.

All are welcome! Ushers and Guides are highly encouraged to attend and learn these life saving skills.

Book Club will meet the FIRST Monday

February 5th at either 10:00am or 6:30pm. We will read and discuss the book entitled "The Light Between Oceans" by M. L. Stedman which is a captivating story that opens in 1918 Australia about a lighthouse keeper and his wife who make one devastating choice that changes two worlds.

Bible Study with Pastor Leesa

We will continue our study on the Gospel of Mark. Choose to learn at either Tuesday evening at 6:30pm or Thursday morning at 10:00am. Each week is a study by itself, therefore, choose to come to one or all.

January 23 or 25 - Who do you say Jesus is? (Mark 8)

January 30 or Feb 1 - What does the glory of God look like? (Mark 9)

February 6 or 8 - Who is the greatest? (Mark 9 & 10)

February 13 or 15 - When is the ending beginning? (Mark 13)

February 20 or 22 - Were you there when he died? (Mark 15)

February 27 or March 1 - Can the end be just a beginning? (Mark 16)

Adult Ministry

Learn to Paint!

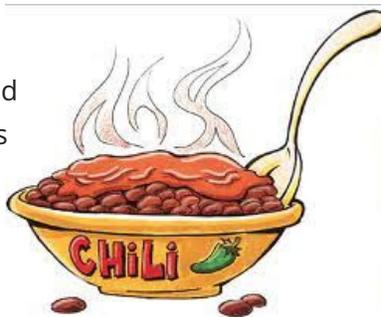
Mark your calendars to discover your artistic talent and join others on Saturday, February 10 from 10:00am to 1:30pm for a painting class at the church. No painting experience is needed. Jay Rupp will teach the class how to paint a North Country scene complete with loons. All painting supplies will be provided. The cost is \$35-\$45 based on the number of attendees. People will have the option to purchase frames and clips at an additional cost. More information about the instructor can be found at www.jayrupp.com. Jay donates the profit from these classes to orphanages in Africa. Sign up sheets will be at the Welcome Center.

Chili Feed & Bingo! ~ Saturday, January 27

Ya'll are invited to come on down to the Good Shepherd Commons area on Saturday, January 27 from 5:00-8:00pm. We will enjoy several varieties of chili and then play some bingo. Cost for dinner is \$5.00. Bingo cards will be \$1 each.

All proceeds from the evening will benefit Neighbors Inc!

Child care is provided.



Trash & Treasure Discontinued

The T&T team, along with the Facility Team, has determined to no longer host the Trash & Treasure event. We are grateful for the years committed to the event and the many, many, many people who volunteered to serve to make it happen, including its dedicated leader, Lynn Tonderum. We applaud your efforts! If you have items you were planning to donate we encourage you to consider calling a non-profit organization like the Salvation Army or the DAV, both typically provide pick-up from your home.



Men's Monthly Brunch

Join men of all ages on Saturday, January 20th at Jersey's on Concord at 9:00 am for food and fellowship. Men will meet at Jersey's on Concord on the third Saturday of the month at 9:00 am. Come as often as you can!

Ladies Night Out

Please join us on Tuesday, February 20 for dinner and fellowship at Market Grill in Eagan. Carpooling will leave from the church at 5:15. Reservations are required. Please RSVP to Jen Becker at 651.207.2260 or weezy43094@gmail.com

Bible Study Offerings

Many Bible Study opportunities are offered throughout the week at Good Shepherd. Check out the church calendar insert or visit the Adult Ministry page on Good Shepherd's website for dates and times.

Other News

Join a Ministry Team & Get Involved!

We are looking for volunteers to serve for one year (no more than three) on a Ministry Team that will help envision, plan and implement a variety of activities and opportunities for all of us at church to try. Each team consists of 3-4 people serving alongside a council liaison and a team member. The team will meet approximately once a month depending on what is planned. If you are interested in learning more please contact Pastor Leesa or sign up on a Sunday morning.

The Social Ministry Team will look at the many needs people have locally and globally. They will work together to find ways Good Shepherd might reach out and serve to meet their needs.

The Facilities Team will keep our newly renovated building looking beautiful and functional so members and community groups can use it to its fullest potential for years to come.

The Adult Ministry Team will plan social and service events that provide friendship and camaraderie with folks from the church and in the neighborhood.

The Younger Adult Ministry Team will consider and plan activities for singles, couples and parents who are in their 20's and 30's.

The Care, Prayer & Support Team intentionally reaches out to show support and care for those in our church that are hurting, for whatever reason. Ways may include prayer, Growing Through Loss grief series, card ministry and more.

The Hospitality Team creates ways to warmly welcome into our church those who are visiting, interested in membership and are new to what we do.

The InterGenerational Team works with the children and youth staff to envision the best ways to make faith stick for young people and how to incorporate them into the life of the overall church through relationship-building with adults of all ages.



Advent & Christmas Decorations

Thank you to the volunteers who gave their time helping to make our building beautiful for Christmas.

Christmas Program Volunteers

Thank you to all the participants, volunteers and attendees of this year's InterGen Christmas Program "The Power of the King".

It was wonderful to have such an intergenerational group of people involved in the show and inspiring to have so many supporters watch the performances.

InterGen Jubilee Worship

Sunday School children will be leading parts of the worship services on February 11 at 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30. There will be no Sunday School so all people can worship together. The children will learn about the Love of Jesus, Martin Luther and the Lutheran church to prepare for leadership.

Children & Youth

Prayer Pals in Lent

The great joy of our Prayer Pal ministry is that it provides an opportunity for stories to be shared. We are given space to share our story, listen to others' stories, and see how we are all connected to God's story.

We invite you back this Lent to continue to share your story with your Prayer Pal. Similar to time together during Advent, we expect Prayer Pals to commit to worshipping together on **Ash Wednesday + FOUR Wednesday Lent Worship**. *We ask that youth, parents and Prayer Pals all attend worship together in lent.*

Worship will be from 6:30-7:15pm. As a guide for discussion, Prayer Pals will be given a Lenten Journal after worship on Ash Wednesday. Prayer Pals can choose to meet either before or after worship to gather and meet. A soup dinner will be offered before worship starting at 5:30pm.

Please take a look at the following Lenten dates and talk with your prayer pal about which four you can commit to:
February 14, 21 & 28 and March 7, 14 & 21.

We look forward to seeing you and your Prayer Pal together this Lenten season. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Pastor Leesa or Jacob Niewinski.

Hunger Awareness Overnight

Friday, February 23

Senior High youth from Good Shepherd and our friends at Amazing Grace, All Saints, St Luke's and Luther Memorial are gathering at Amazing Grace for a 12-hour experience where we will learn and share about how hunger and food insecurity is affecting communities around the world. Through partnership with *The Sandwich Project*, *Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches* and *FMSC* we will also learn how we can be a voice for positive change. This will be an overnight event beginning at 8:00pm.

Sleepover for Grades 3, 4, 5

Saturday, Jan 20 @ 7pm to Sunday, Jan 21 @ 10:15

Children plus Youth and Adult helpers come for an overnight at Good Shepherd. The event will include games like "Sardines", a winter movie, snacks & SLEEPING!

Sunday morning they eat breakfast, attend 8:00 worship & 9:15 Sunday School in their pajamas!



"Valentine Tea" for Grades 3, 4 & 5

Sunday, February 11 11:30 to 1:30pm

Children will decorate the room and prepare tiny "tea" to their families and guests from church. After they serve the food, they will serve others by performing talents at a local Senior Living Center.

Mission Trip Reflections

The mission trip to Benton Harbor has not only helped me grow as a person, but has also expanded my relationship with God. I was really pushed out of my comfort zone, which caused me to become more outgoing when talking to and meeting the people both within YouthWorks and in the community. One of the things that I will forever remember is a conversation with a gentleman named Bill. My group and I helped paint Bill's house as one of our work projects and during a water break he began talking to us about God. He spoke of God's plan for us and how the Lord will take care of us and forgive us even if we stray from him. Hearing about Bill's life experiences and his views of God really spoke to me and allowed my relationship with God to grow stronger. In addition to strengthening my relationship with God, this mission trip has really allowed me to break out of my comfort zone and get to grow new and old friendships. During the work projects I got to know each of the nine people in my group and people outside of my group through jokes and working together. On this trip, I really worked on being outgoing and seeing the needs of others. With God's help, doing those things really helped change my perspective and helped expand myself. ~ Sawyer Grathen

During this mission trip I have started to see God in more people. He is present in many different forms. At Boys and Girls Club I could see God present in the kids' energy and joy. Although, at the Senior Center I saw God in the wisdom of the seniors and their kindness. God was present in the leadership of the YouthWorks staff and their kindness. I also learned that bad things can and will happen to you on this Earth, but sometimes God presents himself through others to you to help you. I have heard from a song before that Jesus is found in the storm, so sometimes you find him in difficult places for yourself because God wants to help you in these places and he may present himself in different ways to help you. "The Good Life" is not a life with not troubles, but a life with God. I really wish my family and friends could have had some of the experiences we had, but we can carry and spread God after this trip. I'm never done learning from God and others.
~ Erica Rettinger

My experience in Benton Harbor, Michigan, gave me the opportunity to help others but also learn from the people in the community. The first day of work, my group stayed at the church to paint the windows. While we were there a little boy named Trey rode his handmade bike, out of old parts, over to say hi to our group. He ended up staying the whole day with us and even started to paint. Trey really showed me that many people in his community are stuck in unfortunate situations but they trust that God will help them through it all. Another experience I had was helping a woman named Mary with her garden. When my group arrived at the garden, Mary was on her hands and knees weeding her garden that at the time we didn't even see the plants because they were so covered with weeds. After we all began weeding we realized her garden had many great plants and Mary just couldn't keep up with the whole garden by herself. I loved to see the happiness on Mary's face when she looked at her garden. She mentioned that she would look out her window at the garden and cry because she didn't have help to make the garden beautiful. This was a moment where I felt like I helped someone who really cares about their community. One day I went to the Boys and Girls Club for a pretty short amount of time. The kids there had great spirits and were having a lot of fun even though many of them have had tough experiences in their lives at such a young age. Even though my time there was short the young kids were immediately attached to us. When I would do something so little as running around or asking them their name, they were so excited. Overall I had a great learning experience in Benton Harbor. ~ Mia Greengard

Luther Park Bible Camp

Campers who have completed grades 2 through 12 are invited to come with us to Luther Park Bible Camp in Danbury, WI this summer from June 24-29 for a week of our favorite camp activities like swimming, crafts, outdoor worship, campfires, field games, night hikes and more! This camping adventure meets the needs and interests of today's children and youth, providing a week to share and grow in Christian faith, life and community.

Through this summer's theme, *This Changes Everything*, campers will learn how God's grace changes these things and how we can work with others to show that grace in the world.

Here's a glimpse of what each age can expect to experience at camp:

- **Grades 2-3 Three-Night Cabin Camp:** An excellent opportunity for first timers to get a taste of camp life. A mini-camp (half-week) experience filled with everything a full-week camper experiences but in a shorter time frame.
- **Grades 3-5 Full Week Alpha Camp:** Enjoy a week of camp adventures which provide growth and expression on the Christian faith. Explore God's creation or sing around a campfire. Hike the trails of the north woods, go swimming, engage with Bible stories and so much more!
- **Grades 6-7 Full Week Beta Camp:** Campers experience a week of adventures that provide growth, development and expression of the Christian faith. This is also a great opportunity for teens to work through some of the biggest questions of life.
- **Grade 8 Full Week Treehouse Camp:** Youth spend a week in rugged tree houses, working together to grow in a relationship with God, the environment and each other. This adventure will challenge and strengthen you in all aspects of your life. You will have the opportunity to cook over an open fire, explore, get dirty, get away from the crowd and have a ton of fun in God's great outdoors!
- **Senior High TIM Leadership Camp:** Youth will learn leadership skills you can use in church, school and everyday life. You'll learn how to lead devotions, Bible Studies, worships, games and how to lead small groups. This is an opportunity that can go on resumes or applications for college.

The total cost for a full week at camp is \$415. Good Shepherd is offering each family with a Campership of up to \$100 per child. Funds you don't use for Camperships are given to kids who need full scholarships in order to attend camp. An initial deposit of \$200 is due by March 1, final payments are due by May 15. (Scholarships are available for families who need further financial assistance.)

Register by March 1 online from the camp page on our website or at lutherpark.com



Lenten Worship Series
Water Marks

Wednesdays
12:00pm & 6:30pm

