



March 2018

651.451.6225

On Wednesdays at worship, during the season of Lent, we will be using a book of faith resource written by Diane Jacobson entitled "Water Marks"

*Jacobson writes in her introduction, "Water surrounds us in our natural world, in oceans, rivers and lakes. Water marks our natural lives from our mother's wombs to our daily bathing and the quenching of our thirst. Water marks our sacramental lives in God as we die and rise with Christ at our baptisms. And so it is with Scripture: from the first chapter of the Bible to the last, God's Word is water marked."*

*On this Lenten Journey, you will be invited to bring your own experiences of water. Remember your first swimming lesson or fishing trip, your first or most exciting ride on a boat. Remember the times water has been threatening or life-giving. Remember the floods and the fear of drowning. Remember that time you were dying of thirst and someone offered you a cool glass of water.*

*On this Lenten journey, bring along your tears of joy and sorrow. And in, with, and under it all, remember your baptism and the daily calling to live out your baptism in your daily life. Let the waters of your life and the waters of your baptism intermingle with the waters of Scripture."*

We hope Wednesdays will prove to be a special time for you this season, when we will use Diane Jacobson's book "Water Marks" to guide our worship experience with song, scripture, a brief reflection, silence, the sights and sound of water and questions to ponder. Go to our website [Water Mark banner](#) for a description of the water story we will consider each week.

Peace,  
Pastor Leesa



# Other News

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## 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	<a href="mailto:pastorleesa@goodshepherdigh.com">pastorleesa@goodshepherdigh.com</a>
Pastor Jerry	<a href="mailto:pastorjerry@goodshepherdigh.com">pastorjerry@goodshepherdigh.com</a>
Andrea Swainey	<a href="mailto:admin@goodshepherdigh.com">admin@goodshepherdigh.com</a>
Jacob Niewinski	<a href="mailto:youth@goodshepherdigh.com">youth@goodshepherdigh.com</a>
Karen Davis	<a href="mailto:children@goodshepherdigh.com">children@goodshepherdigh.com</a>
Bobbie Radi	<a href="mailto:children@goodshepherdigh.com">children@goodshepherdigh.com</a>
Lisa Langton	<a href="mailto:music@goodshepherdigh.com">music@goodshepherdigh.com</a>

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## Prayer, Care & Support Corner



Advance Care Planning is a helping hand to your loved ones. Be your voice when you have no voice. Do you have a health care directive prepared?

An Advance Healthcare Directive, also known as a living will, personal directive, advance directive, medical directive or advance decision is a legal document in which a person specifies what actions should be taken for their health if they are no longer able to make decisions for themselves because of illness.

Be prepared to make your healthcare wishes known by attending Allina's free session on Wednesday, February 28 at 4:00 at their West St Paul Clinic. Call 612.262.2224.....to register or with questions.

## 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 March 4 or April 8 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](mailto:admin@goodshepherdigh.com)

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## Baptisms

Everly Ann Housley  
1.14.18

*Child of Carissa & Matthew Housley*

Elijah Mayer Mergen  
1.14.18

*Child of Kelsey & Justin Mergen*

## Funerals

Sally Lou Carlson  
Age 82  
2.1.18

# Social Ministry

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## Huruma Center An Invitation to Partnership

Good Shepherd is considering a new partnership with the Huruma Center in Tanzania. The Huruma Center is a children's home in Iringa which provides a safe home, nurturing, nutrition and education for children who, for a variety of reasons, have no family or others to care for them. As Friends or partners of Huruma, Good Shepherd would help care for the children through mutual relationship, prayer, financial support and programs that enrich the lives of the children. We would receive regular communication with our new friends through the Iringa Diocese who works closely with the Saint Paul Area Synod's Global Ministry. Throughout the next several months you will hear and see more about the possible friendship that can be built across oceans.



### Give What You Can to "Fill the Need"

Did you know that 1 in 10 Minnesotans doesn't have enough food? Or that Neighbors' Inc. Food Shelf serves about 550 people a month?

Hunger is an issue in our community that can't be ignored. Good Shepherd wants to help our neighbors in need this Minnesota Food Share Month. Throughout the month of March, we will be accepting your monetary donations to give on behalf of all of us at Good Shepherd, which is in addition to the funds we budget to give each year. Please write your check to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and put in memo "Neighbors" or go to our website and give electronically.

While we think your monetary donation goes the furthest for food, we are also strongly encouraging you to give much needed hygiene related items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, toilet paper, shampoo and feminine products. We want to give an abundance of these items that are often times overlooked as needs.



## Grocery Bagging for Neighbors, Inc

The Social Ministry Team would like to invite you to Grocery Bagging at Cub Foods, March 3 from 10:00 to 12:00pm. We need 12 individuals, families or groups to join us to bag groceries. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Neighbor's, Inc food shelf. Sign up at the Welcome Center or fill out the Sign-Up Central insert.

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## Let's Fill the Need!

We want to exceed last's years donations! We will have 4 barrels 2 for food, 1 for brown grocery bags, 1 for hygiene products, All food and hygiene items will be accepted- The 10 most wanted items at Neighbors Food Shelf: Rice, Chicken Noodle Soup, Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna, Canned corn, Canned Meat, Cooking oil, Pancake mix, Masa Flour, & Hygiene items: (Shampoo, Toilet paper, facial tissue, tooth paste and deodorant.)

# Adult Ministry

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## YogaDevotion Mondays at 6:30pm

The next 6-week session of YogaDevotion begins on March 5. Cost is \$48 for this session. 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](http://goodshepherdigh.com). You can sign up under the Contact Us menu or in class.

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## Men's Monthly Brunch

Join men of all ages on Saturday, March 17th at Jersey's on Concord at 9:00 am for food and fellowship. We 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 Wednesday, March 28 for dinner and fellowship at Tinucci's Chicken Frenzy Night. 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](mailto:weezy43094@gmail.com)

## Cribbage Game Day

Join us on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00pm in the church Commons for a few rounds of Cribbage. Contact Jim Smeby with questions, 651.492.1738



The Adult Ministry team hosted a Chili and “Bingo for Neighbors” event on Saturday, January 27th. A big thank you to everyone who attended or volunteered to make this event possible. Also, thank you to the local businesses that provided donations for bingo prizes. Everyone had a great evening of food, fellowship and fun. **We are excited to report that the event raised \$914 and we increased it to an even \$1000 for Neighbors.** If you have ideas or suggestions for next year, please let the Adult Ministry team know.

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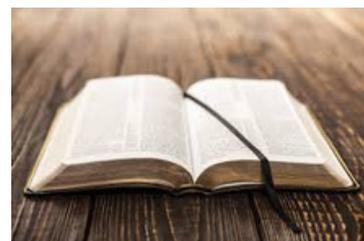
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## Book Club

**Monday, March 5 at 10:00am or 6:30pm**

In March we will discuss “A Man Called Ove” by Fredrik Backman. *At first glance, Ove is most certainly the grumpiest man you ever met. Never trust first impressions! Backman's irresistible novel is an uplifting exploration of the unreliability of first impressions and a gentle reminder that life is sweeter when it is shared with other people.*

**Bible Study  
with  
Pastor Leesa on  
the Gospel of  
Mark**



In February, we meet every Tuesday at 6:00pm or Thursday at 10:00am to discuss Mark's perspective of Jesus' death and resurrection. We will not meet in March, but will resume in April/May for a study on the book of Genesis.

# All Church News

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## Roll Call

Leadership is aware it has been several years since we have taken a good look at our current membership rolls.

We think it is time. Can you help us?

Get in touch with the church office (651.451.6225 or admin@goodshepherdigh.com if:

- ~ You have permanently moved out of the area.
- ~ You have already or will be transferring your membership to another church.
- ~ You are actively worshipping and participating in another church and consider yourself inactive at Good Shepherd.
- ~ You are still active, but you know your adult children are members of another church.
- ~ Your adult children are still members but have their own household. We would like their new contact information.
- ~ You no longer want to be members at Good Shepherd, for whatever the reason. No questions asked unless you want to tell us.
- ~ You want to remain a member, but be considered inactive because of your life circumstances.

*No matter what you declare your membership status to be, know, you are **always welcome in this place!***

*Our hope and prayer is, whether it is Good Shepherd or another church, you are finding a community of faith that nourishes and supports you on your faith journey.*

*Your choosing to let us know your level of participation at Good Shepherd is extremely helpful. To make things even easier for you, a letter and questionnaire with a self-addressed, stamped envelope will be delivered to your mailbox in March. You simply check the questionnaire boxes and mail it back to us.*

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## Welcome Council Members

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2018 four members of the congregation were voted onto the 12 member Congregational Council: Arden Fritz, Beth Borgen-Lindberg (Vice President) Matt Walkowiak and Nathan Holt. They join Bob Van Pelt, Brian Hurt, Cathie O'Neill-Saver, Christine Schmitz (Secretary), Kathy Malecek (President), Kimberly Cleary, Lisa Wilmot, Matt Clifton (Treasurer).

## New Members Received Sunday, April 15

If you are someone who wants to become a member at Good Shepherd or you know someone who does, please direct them to our membership form on-line or speak to Pastor Leesa. On Monday, April 9 from 6:30-8:00, we will have a Meet & Greet for new members to get welcomed and orientated to Good Shepherd.

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## 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 cardiac arrest. 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.

# Youth

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## 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 other's 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 worships*. We ask that youth, parents and Prayer Pals all attend worship together in Lent.

Worship will be from 6:30 - 7:15 PM. As a guide for discussion, Prayer Pals will be given a Lenten Journal after worship on Ash Wednesday. Prayer Pals may choose to meet either before worship from 5:30 - 6:30 PM or after from 7:15 - 8:00 PM. A soup dinner will be offered before worship starting at 5:30pm.

NEW!! This Lent we have the opportunity for Prayer Pals to serve together by helping with the Wednesday Soup Suppers. Every Wednesday starting Ash Wednesday through March 21, two pairs of Prayer Pals can help in the kitchen by serving soup, bread, cookies, and beverages. This is a great opportunity to connect! If you are able to help, let Jacob know.

Please take a look at the the Lenten dates below and talk with your Prayer Pal about which four you can commit to:

February 14 - Ash Wednesday  
February 21 - Water Marks: Creation  
February 28 - Water Marks: Justice  
March 7 - Water Marks: Storms  
March 14 - Drawn to the Word  
March 21 - Sacred Places Choir Cantata



We look forward to seeing you and your Prayer Pal together this Lenten season.

## Senior High Hunger Awareness Event

**Friday, February 23 at 8:00pm**

Senior High youth 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 Friday and ending at 8:00am Saturday.

Register by 2/21/18 so that we are prepared to accommodate everyone. Link to the registration can be found online on the Senior High webpage.

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## Day of Service With Neighbors, Inc

March is Minnesota Food Share month! Come and serve at Neighbors on Saturday, March 24 from 10:30 AM - Noon by interacting with customers in the Clothes Closet or sorting food donations in the Food Shelf. A great way to participate in the good work at Neighbors!

# Children

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## Wednesday Night Live in Lent

Classes will continue during the season of Lent following the 6:30 worship and lasting until 8:00pm. Classes will be held in the "Messy Art Room" located in the Inter†Gen wing of the building. We will be doing fun art and science projects related to water to enhance learning of our "Water Works" Lent theme. People of all ages, including Prayer Pals are welcome to join us for these projects.

## St Patrick's Day Party

Grades K, 1 & 2

**Sunday, March 11 from 11:30-1:30pm**

Children dress in their finest greenery and eat a festive somewhat "Irish" meal. If the weather is nice we will play outside as well as learn a bit about St. Patrick and the holiday while we play fun games and make crafts with "Irish" twists. Several youth and parents are needed to help with this event.



## Jubilee Worship

**Sunday, March 18 is "Water Works" Jubilee Worship Sunday**

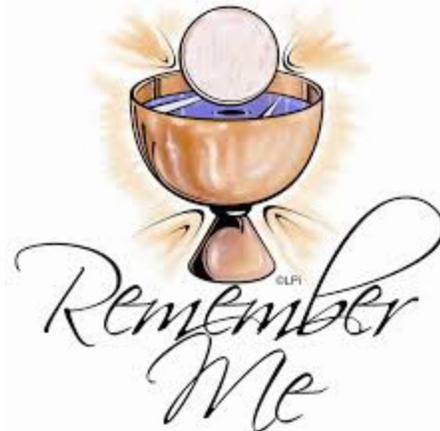
This is another special worship Sunday when we do not have education classes so people of all ages can worship together. Plan on joining us for one of these family friendly services at 8:00, 9:15 or 10:30. The message and activities will culminate our Lenten season theme of "Water & Baptism". A newly formed group of Inter†Gen singers will provide special music.

## Looking Ahead

**Our first every all-church talent show "The Gala of Gifts"**

**Sunday, April 29 at 5:30!**

Please join us for a lovely evening of light appetizers and desserts while we enjoy entertainment provided by individuals and groups of congregational members of all ages. There will be opportunities for performing arts such as music, dance, comedy, magic tricks, etc. as well as visual arts of painting, drawing, photography, pottery and crafts of all types. We will even accept culinary treats if made at GSLC! Sign-up will begin in March. See Karen Davis or Lisa Langton if you have any questions or would like to schedule practice time at church.



**A First Communion Instruction Class for All Ages will be held on Sunday, March 18 from 11:30am-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 with Pastor Leesa for those receiving the Sacrament for the first time and others wanting a refresher on its message. Participants are invited to attend both Celebrations of 1st Communion: Maundy Thursday, March 29 @ 6:30pm & Easter Sunday, April 1 @ 8:00, 9:15 or 10:30am.

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Families will be invited to make special "**Easter Story Eggs**" during WN†L on March 21 and on Palm Sunday, March 25. *For this project to happen, we would like donations of about 75-100 clean and empty egg cartons.* There will be a collection box at the Inter†Gen desk. Thank You!

# Youth Moments

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I've learned a lot from my past mission trips but the thing I learned most from Michigan is how important positive thinking is. Rather than thinking, "these people live in such a poor environment we need to save them," we have to focus also on the things that are good and the things they can offer us as well. It's not always easy to change what your brain automatically thinks but I've noticed it can be altered with continual correction. The past week my group painted a Lutheran school that offered an affordable option for religious-based learning. It would have been too easy to just notice how small it was compared to our schools at home or all the bad things about it. However, it took a conscious effort to think positively and imagine all the potential this school holds. Emma, a lady from the community that we gardened for, seemed to sense that kind of potential a mile away. She bought an empty plot of land in which at the time had been a pretty bad gang neighborhood. Ever since the founding of that garden the violence that used to be the norm all but stopped. Neighbors and community members can now stop by one of her several gardens to pick fresh produce for free. Not only does she offer healthy options for free, but she keeps the youth occupied with her weekly gardening lessons. Maybe someday one of them will take over her legacy. What really struck me on this mission trip is how quick we are to base our opinions on negative first impressions. All we really need to do is \*dig\* a little deeper and notice all the good God is truly doing in our community.

~Ashley Swearingen

My experience at Benton Harbor was eye-opening. This trip has really given me an overwhelming amount of faith. Unlike other years I felt like I have connected with my faith again. Even though Benton Harbor has a tremendous amount of poverty, they all appreciate what they have. One of the people I did work with was a woman named Diane. She just moved home from California to help her sister out with her brother who had a little bit of a disability. Diane wanted to make the house nice again so we went in to help her paint. She said she felt almost guilty but she was so so grateful for us. I thought that it was so cool because all of her family lived in different houses right next to each other. It was different for me because my grandparents live 2.5 hours away and some of my family lives out East. It's amazing how close they are and how they get to see each other all the time instead of special gatherings.

We also met a man named Billy who was a teacher who taught his students life lessons and curriculum which was really cool because you could tell he loved his job. A man named Jerry took us on a tour of downtown Benton Harbor. He was talking about how the kids in high school that were poor were the smartest of them all because they learned how to survive on their own without money and also go to school and do their homework. We went to the Boys and Girls Club and met Mr. Freddy. He was pretty much in charge of everything and he loves everyone and everyone there is a family. He cares about all the kids and makes all of them work on something related with education. There was a kid that went there and he said he changed tremendously for the better and everyone around him noticed.

I am so grateful for this trip and I would like to thank the congregation for giving us the opportunity to go on this trip. ~ Emily Suchy

# Worship

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## Wednesdays in Lent

**11:00 a.m. Soup Lunch**

**12:00 p.m. Traditional Worship**

The service will use the spoken word and old, familiar hymns to proclaim God's presence on our journey.

**5:30 p.m. Soup Dinner 6:30 p.m.**

**Blended Worship**

The service will use all of our senses, along with a blend of hymns and contemporary songs, to tell the story of God's presence.

Following worship, Prayer Pals will meet for discussion and Children will engage in provided Water-related activities.



**February 21 Water Comes from the Rock**

Numbers 20:1-2,11

**February 28 Water Marks of Justice**

Amos 5:24

**March 7 A Storm is Calmed & Water is Walked Upon**

Matthew 8:24-27 Matthew 14:25, 29-33

**March 14 Marked in the Waters of Baptism**

Matthew 28:16-20

Drawn to the Word Worship

The evening will be a worship and artistic experience where Artist and Pastor Paul Oman will paint right before our eyes a larger-than-life mural of God's sending us to baptize in God's name!

The story will unfold artistically, musically, narratively and scripturally.

**March 21 The Choir Spring Cantata: The Sacred Places**

John 2:1-12, John 5:2-12, John 13:1-17

Our church choir will explore Christ's Water Mark stories, emphasizing the locations they occurred:

The Sea of Galilee, the Wedding at Cana and the Upper Room.

This is a memorable telling of Christ's water encounters with poignant narrations, beautiful choral arrangements and creative orchestrations.

Lenten Worship

Wednesdays  
12:00 & 6:30pm

Soup Meals  
Served an hour prior  
to each service.

