



September/October 2018

651.451.6225

On behalf of the Associate Pastor Call Committee, Arden Fritz, Becca Nelson, Beth Borgen-Lindberg, Cathie O'Neill-Saver, Jeff Gundry, and Nick Blied, and the Church Council, it is my pleasure to recommend to you the Reverend Thomas Mead Richter, or Pastor Tommy as you will come to know him.

Pastor Tommy grew up in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Both of his grandfathers were Lutheran Pastors, and he often was asked, not "are you going to seminary, but when are you going to seminary?" He studied Philosophy as an undergraduate in Pennsylvania. He received his Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Pastor Tommy is married. His wife, Ann, graduated from Macalister College in St. Paul.

Pastor Tommy has been serving at his first call in the tiny Alaskan town/island of Shishmaref, just south of the Arctic Circle, for about two years. Shishmaref Lutheran Church is the only church on the island and he is the only Pastor.

Pastor Tommy is looking forward to collaborating with Pastor Leesa and all the staff. He considers himself a story teller, poet and a Lutheran eager to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ. He is grounded in grace and is compassionate, empathetic, and wants others to feel God's incredible love.

Pastor Tommy has a passion for life-long learning. He will teach us and help us grow in our Lutheran faith and as people of God. He will show us how people of the Church can, as is a core value of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, contribute the blessing of our presence for the support and care of others.

Pastor Tommy exhibits unconditional love, shown by listening and walking with people no matter where they are in their faith journey. Pastor Tommy wears his heart on his sleeve and will be a great addition to our church for his ability to provide excellent pastoral care and to help us grow in our relationships with one another as a congregation as well as with those neighbors across the street and across the world.

He will be a good colleague for Pastor Leesa, enthusiastic and flexible, considerate of traditions, but ready with new ideas for teaching and ministry. He will bring joy and good humor to relationships here; he has a kind spirit and ready laugh or a tear if his heart is touched.

You are invited to attend the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 16, 2018 at 11:15, to vote to call Pastor Tommy Richter to join us *whether our feet are big or small, fresh or worn, running or crawling.*

**Together on the Journey Sharing God's love.**

Kathy Malecek  
Call Committee Chair & Council President

# News for the Journey

## Church Building & Office Hours

The church **building** is open during the following times:  
Monday - Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm (office hours) and  
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  
Karen Davis     children@goodshepherdigh.com  
Bobbie Radi     children@goodshepherdigh.com  
Lisa Langton     music@goodshepherdigh.com

## Baptisms

Callista Skye Clifton  
*Child of Michael Clifton  
& Katelyn Overlund*

Willow Irene Bernadette Schulz  
*Child of Jessica & Gary Schulz*

## Stay Connected!



## Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, September 16 @ 11:15am**

We will vote on extending a letter of call to Pastor Thomas "Tommy" Richter to be our next Associate Pastor. The Church Council voted unanimously to accept the Call Committee's recommendation to receive Pastor Tommy who is currently in his first call in Shishmaref, Alaska. Pastor Tommy has the following areas of expertise:  
Interpreting Theology, Preaching & Worship Leadership, Teaching, Pastoral Care & Visitation and Innovation & Creativity. All of these strengths, along with the gifts of authenticity, compassion and humor will serve our congregation well.

## Mission, Vision, Values

The Church Council, staff and many volunteers have worked extremely hard on determining who we are, what we strive to be and naming how we get there. We call this a statement of our Mission, Vision and Core Values. We are thrilled to present them to you as we begin another incredible program year.



### MISSION

*Whether one's feet are big or small,  
fresh or worn, running or crawling,  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is  
**Together on the Journey,  
Sharing God's Love***

### VISION

*Good Shepherd is committed to  
providing a Christ-centered,  
relationship-building,  
intergenerational community.*

### VALUES

*Creating grace-filled, actionable  
worship  
Nurturing life-long learning  
Contributing God's blessings to others*

# Grace-Filled, Actionable Worship

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## Jubilee Worship

### "Blessings"

**Sunday, October 14**

**9:15am**

On Jubilee Sundays, instead of attending education classes at 9:15, people of all ages are asked to come together during worship to praise and thank God through a special theme with special activities. This service will be all about celebrating God's blessings. There will be a special message for all children and third graders will be presented with Bibles .

Following the 9:15 services Sunday+School children will be in the Commons displaying their dramatic gifts in a wax museum of Bible characters & objects for you to enjoy.



## Bible Instruction Class

**Sunday, Oct 14, 11:30-1:30**

Children in grade 3 who receive a Bible during Jubilee Worship and those who would like a Bible refresher class are invited to join Pastor Leesa for lunch followed by a kid-friendly tutorial about the Bible.

## Regular Worship Hours

**Sunday @ 8:00am**

**Traditional Worship**

**Sunday @ 9:15 & 10:30am**

**Blended Worship**

**Wednesday @ 6:30pm**

**Contemporary Worship**

## Improving Worship Sound

You may have noticed the sanctuary corner has been taken over by a sound board and our sound technicians. With the help and advice of an outside consultant, it was determined we can greatly improve our sound during worship if our sound techs are out of the sound room and listening in the sanctuary. In the near future, we hope to build a small platform in that area of the sanctuary to raise our sound and visual equipment and our tech volunteers, both of which will enhance audio and visual technology. Thank you for your support as we move to improve everyone's worship experience.

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## 9th Graders are Confirmed

On Sunday, October 28 @ 1:00pm our 9th graders will be confirmed in an afternoon worship service. Photos will follow worship at 2:15pm. A reception for immediate family members is held on Friday, October 26 @ 6:30-8:00. Please pray for our youth as they celebrate this important rite of passage on their faith journey.

Youth getting confirmed will participate with a parent or other loving adult on Sunday, September 30 from 1:00-4:00 in a Faith Encounter to prepare for Confirmation Sunday.

# Life-Long Learning

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## First Communion Instruction For All Ages Sunday, November 11 11:30 - 1:00p,



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 21 @ 6:30pm & Sunday, December 2 @ 8:00, 9:15 or 10:30am.

## Confirmation Schedule Change

5:30 - 7:00pm ~ Grade 8 Meets

6:30 - 8:00pm ~ Grades 6 & 7 Meet

Our new schedule is helping us create time and space to engage in deeper discussion, participate in creative activities and foster meaningful relationships.

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## Become a Member of Good Shepherd

If you are interested in becoming a member of Good Shepherd we invite you to our **Fall Meet & Greet Orientation on Monday, October 22 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** The evening includes a welcome and introduction to Good Shepherd; its vision and mission, staff and ministry opportunities, a brief overview of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and an opportunity to meet other new members and your 'shepherd', as well as the enjoyment of refreshments. If you have questions, please email Pastor Leesa [pastorleesa@goodshepherdigh.com](mailto:pastorleesa@goodshepherdigh.com) and or complete our new member registration found online. **New Members are received during the 9:15 worship service on Sunday, October 28.**

## Adult Learning Opportunities

We are waiting with great anticipation for our new associate pastor to begin ministry at Good Shepherd as they will help us to develop a plan to provide many adult learning opportunities which include Bible Studies, guest speakers and presentations, book discussions and much more. In the meantime we appreciate your patience and prayers.

## Youth Director, Jacob Niewinski Resigns

As of August 1, Jacob resigned from his full time youth director position at Good Shepherd having accepted a role with Youth Frontiers in order to work with children and youth in schools. During the interim without a youth director, Pastor Leesa will lead ministry to and with our middle school and high school youth.

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## Baptism Classes

Parents getting their children baptized are invited and encouraged to attend a brief introduction to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Our introductory classes are offered the first Sunday of October - May from 11:30-12:15 in Classroom 2.

# Community Building

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## Craft & Gift Expo 2018

**Friday, Nov 16, 11am - 7pm**  
**Saturday, Nov 17, 9am - 3pm**

Good Shepherd will host dozens of artists, vendors and crafters for this two day event. Gifts will include: floral, books, woodcrafts, hand crafted items, clothing, accessories and much more! A lunch of tater tot hot dish, handmade sandwiches, soups, desserts and lefse will be served. Proceeds from the lunch will benefit a ministry of Good Shepherd. Come for the shopping, have a little lunch and stay for the fun!

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## Scavenger Hunt Ministry Event for Grades 3-5

**Sunday, October 21 ~ 11:30 - 1:30**

This event consists of a tasty lunch and an extremely fun, kid-friendly task of searching inside and outside the Good Shepherd building for hidden clues, while being on the lookout to avoid being tagged by a "noodler". Several adult and youth volunteers are needed to help out as *noodlers* and *medics*. See Karen Davis for questions or to sign up.

## Yoga†Devotion

The next 8-week session of YogaDevotion began on September 10 and there is still time to join us! This is a class for all levels enjoyed by newcomers and returning class members. We meet on Mondays at 6:30pm at Good Shepherd. Cost is \$64 for this session. Class opens with scripture and reflections during breath work. The body of the class is a combination of standing poses, balance poses and floor poses closing with a time of reflection and thanksgiving for God's Presence in our lives. Stop by for a class to check it out! Register on the GSLC website under Contact Us or in class.

## Monthy Men's Brunch

Join men of all ages on the third Saturday of each month for breakfast and conversation. We meet at Jersey's on Concord at 9:00am. Come as often as you can!

## Ladies Night Out

Please join us on Thursday, October 18 for dinner and fellowship at Mason Jar in Eagan. We will carpool from the church at 5:15. 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 651.492.17.38

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## Ducks & Trucks

**Saturday, September 29**  
**2:00-6:00pm**

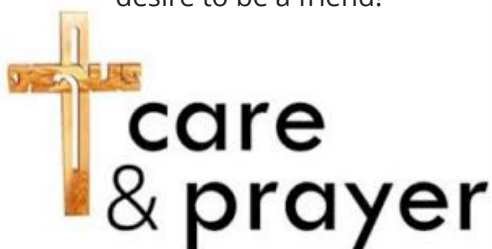
The Great Neighbors' Duck Races are back and this year we'll be in with the big rigs as part of the annual Touch A Truck community event in West Paul. The fun begins at 2pm featuring a variety of family-friendly activities.

# Contributing Our Blessings

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## Care & Prayer Corner

Every church has them: once-active church members who now have limitations (temporary or permanent) that have reduced their involvement in church. They are known as the homebound or shut-ins, both of which are inadequate terms because they address people's limitations rather than their gifts to the community. Unfortunately, many of these people and their gifts are unknown to the congregation. The Prayer, Care & Support Ministry Team do not want to have these folks and their gifts to be forgotten or ignored. Therefore, we are creating a Be-a-Friend Team. The Be-a-Friend Team will be a group of people willing to be trained on October 21 from 11:30-1:00. Each group member will be assigned a 'homebound' member to visit at least once a month to bring 'church' to them, which means Holy Communion, friendship, words of comfort and gifts of joy. If you are interested in developing new friendships and meaningful connections with a 'homebound' member, please see Pastor Leesa or Cathie O'Neill-Saver. The only experience you need is the desire to be a friend!



## We Give Thanks to the Lord for Our Blessings

During the month of October, we take time to consider the many, many blessings the Lord has offered to us and through our church.

- WE GIVE THANKS that we benefit from worship where the love of Jesus is revealed through grace-filled messages and incredible music.
- WE GIVE THANKS that we benefit from Bible studies and book club readings and confirmation and Sunday School opportunities to nurture life-long learning.
- WE GIVE THANKS for church members who pray for us when we struggle, walk with us in our grief, serve us meals to build community, plan events to enjoy one another's company.
- WE GIVE THANKS for our beautiful building where we can worship, learn and build community in.
- WE GIVE THANKS...

While we take time to GIVE THANKS, we hope you will also ponder the fact the Lord calls each of us to contribute back to the church our time, talents and treasures in order to continually provide incredible ministry Together on the Journey, Sharing God's Love whether one's feet are big or small, fresh or worn, running or crawling. We appreciate your generosity thus far for the building and its mortgage, community building events, learning resources, helping our neighbors, caring for each other when in need, and an awesome staff. We hope you will prayerfully and carefully consider your offering for 2019.

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## Growing Through Loss Fall Series

Join us for one or all sessions on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00, at Church of the Risen Savior, 1501 East County Road 42, Burnsville. Suggested donation per session is \$3.00. Brochures are also available in the Welcome Center display rack.

September 18 ~ "Finding Balance in the Midst of Grief"

September 25 ~ "Using Meditation, Breath Work and Yoga Therapeutically for Grief"

October 2 ~ "I Just Can't Do It this Year"

# Contributing Our Blessings

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## Friends of Huruma!

On September 9th we learned about our Friends of the Huruma Centre.

You are God's loving hands in Tanzania! The church council voted to accompany on the journey for four years our Friends at the Huruma Centre. Accompaniment on the journey means, in part:

- Praying regularly for the Huruma Centre employees and the children living there.
- Supporting five students attending high school through prayer and financial resources.
- Finding creative ways to befriend our Tanzanian friends, in spite of the distance, like sending them photos of us and creating quilts to give.
- Contributing money to feed, clothe, house and educate the children living at the Huruma Centre. These children would otherwise be orphaned.

Thank you for contributing blessings to our neighbors both near and far!

Please return the Huruma Centre Offering boxes to worship on Sunday, October 14.

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## Mission Trip Experience 2019

**Chicago, Illinois June 23-29, 2019**

Informational Meeting will be September 30 at 11:30.

Registrations, deposit and covenant are due in October 21.

## Mission Moments from Flathead, Montana

On our mission trip to Montana I learned a lot about the different types of people that can work to make up a community. My group spent two days at the boys and girls club and I was able to spend time with the teen age group. It was an interesting and different experience because this group of kids weren't that much younger than me. They were all between eleven and fifteen years old, which is only 2 years younger than me. I liked it because they seemed more like peers and I was able to get to know them through similar interests like ping pong or sports. On the first day we were painting signs blue so we could write Boys & Girls Club on it and a couple of them came over and grabbed supplies so we could all paint together and get the job done quicker. It surprised me how similar this group of friends was to my own summer club that I went to when I was younger; mostly independent but super inclusive to other people whether it be adults or little kids who are also going to the Club. I was able to see God through each and every one of them because they all came from different backgrounds and home lives but they came together to form a close knit and inclusive community. They would tease each other, poke fun and get really competitive with each other, but it was how the dynamic of their group and friendships worked and it was amazing to be a part of it even if it was only for a short amount of time. Any amount of time is enough to leave an impact on someone's life and I know they left an impact in mine. ~ Emma Grace Cleary, grade 12

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There is the family we're born with and the people we let into our hearts that become like family. Meeting people I didn't know before and getting closer to the people I did made mission trip an amazing experience - from the beautiful sunset on the mountain to cutting my leg on a forklift, I swear it jumped out at me. What did jump out at me is the story of my little man Davarius, standing at a solid 4.0", 63 pounds and 8 1/2 years old. The first day at kids club I sat by Davarius. He's the star on his little league football team. He enjoys athletics as much as I do. His idol is LeBron James which Davarius called "The King" because of how good he is on the court and how much charity he does. Davarius wants to give back to his community the way "the King" does. But Davarius' story is not what you would expect. He lives in a broken house with his many siblings. They've moved to 4 different states in 7 years. Davarius still was a very charismatic guy telling me he made friends in every state he went to. He wasn't what I'd expect from someone who goes home to shouting and "hurtful words". He never let them keep his bright humor or soul down. There is the family we're born with and the ones we let into our hearts, and Davarius made it into my heart. ~ Joe Krueger, grade 12

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# Oktoberfest



Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am – 3:00 pm

## Great Food & Drinks

Bratwurst & Hot Dogs

Beans

Chips



Soft Warm Pretzels



Root Beer

Apple Cider

Coffee



Cupcakes

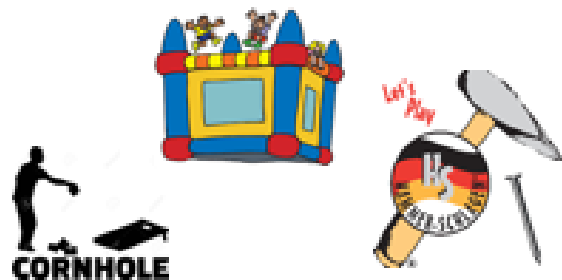
(German Chocolate, Apple  
Strudel, & Black Forest)



## Live Polka Band

Featuring **The Squires Band** with  
Greg Caza (Good Shepherd Lutheran  
member) on the accordion

## Fun Games & Activities for the entire family



~ Tickets will be sold for the food & drink items ~

**Volunteers Needed:** If you are interested in helping with this event, please  
contact Greg Rettinger at 651-552-0646 or via email at [gpr1411@icloud.com](mailto:gpr1411@icloud.com).  
You can also contact the church office at 651-451-6225.

**Bring your family, friends & neighbors**



Together on the Journey  
Sharing God's Love

Sundays

8:00am - Traditional

9:15 & 10:30am - Blended

Wednesdays

6:30pm - Contemporary



**Good Shepherd**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH