



February/March 2019

651.451.6225

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land,
light has dawned. -Isaiah 9:2*

Happy Epiphany Good Shepherd! The name for the liturgical season we celebrate for only a moment longer comes to us from a Greek word which means: to come suddenly into view (literally: epi- meaning *on, to* and phainen meaning *to shine, or to show*). It is the season we celebrate the aha!-moment of Christ's birth, and what it means for God almighty to take on the weak and squirming flesh of a baby.

But every year, I get the feeling that the season of Epiphany is all too short. It seems the baby Jesus is just beginning to toddle about in January and then before you can blink three times, we're smack in the middle of Lent getting ready for the 34 year old Jesus to die. Sometimes I could scream at the calendar: "Slow down! Give the kid a chance!" Perhaps though, this is emblematic of all aha!-moments. Our visions of clarity, understanding, and inspiration often happen in short bursts of light that shine for but a flicker. Epiphanies are like camera flashes, they make the colors of the picture bright, but they don't stick around long enough to help you read. Sometimes they even make our immediate vision worse as we try to recover from the spots on our retinas.

And so, even as snow falls around us and the temperatures dip into the negative shivers—we are already on our way toward planning Summer adventures, March Food Share Month, and our other sundry Lenten preparations like soup lunches & suppers. Epiphany is now but a fading snow blindness in our vision, as we stumble about on our journey together toward the Easter dawn. There is a lot we can see ahead of us by the light which shines into the darkness!

I hope you will join us on the journey this lent for our Wednesday noon and evening services where we will be exploring questions about who God is...this great I AM who sends us out into the world. I look forward to introducing you to the Penny Wars in March. I am joyful for all the summer adventure opportunities that are glimpsable on the horizon. (More about all of these things inside this newsletter!)

But for now, it is good to take comfort in the words of the Prophet Isaiah. That light has shown into the darkness, and that even if our Epiphanies are brief, even if our glimpses of it are short, the light of God does not give up shining and dawning upon us. God will continue to break into our winter darkness and fill us with life to share with one another.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tommy.

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
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & 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 Tommy	pastortommy@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



One of the quickest and easiest ways to support the ministry of Good Shepherd is through Online Giving. Arrange for one-time or recurring gifts using your credit card, debit card or checking account with Good Shepherd's SecureGive program. Recurring gifts help Good Shepherd to budget and plan accordingly. More information is available at the Welcome Center. Visit Good Shepherd's website and click on Giving from the menu bar to get started! Or stop by the church office for assistance.

Marriages

*Brittany Schindeldecker
& Nathan Skoglund
1.5.19*

*Becca Nelson & Cole Kelly
1.19.19*

Deaths

*Don Trace
Age 92
1.12.19*

*Bruce Bernier
Age 72
1.15.19*

Baptisms

*Ella Lorraine Jorgensen
Child of
Nikki & Erik Jorgensen*

*Leda Joy Murashie
Child of
Lindsay & Thomas Murashie*



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

Prayer Pals during Lent

Prayer Pals & Confirmation Students Meet during Lent on Wednesdays during Lent (March 6-April 10). Our prayer pals and youth will meet for 6:30 worship and discussion on God is...Booklets are available on Ash Wednesday, March 6 in the Commons. Be sure to sign-in so every meeting is counted. You are expected to attend 5 of the 6 sessions.

Summer Sunday

February 24 @ 9:15 in Sunday School children along with parents and grandparents are invited to learn about 2019 Summer offerings for our children. This will include VBS for Pre-K and up plus overnight Bible Camp at WAPO for children who have completed grade 1 and up. Festivities include camp & VBS songs, games and a special summer snack. Go to the Summer Banner on our website to learn more.

Nursery Care

The Nursery Team provides a loving, caring, safe and fun environment for children 6 weeks – 5 years of age while parents participate in worship or education classes. Worship times when childcare is provided are: Sundays @ 9:15 and 10:30; Lenten services hours are Wednesdays @ 6:30.



Our Wednesday Lent Series – God is...

Moses said to God, "They are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?" God responded by saying, "I AM Who I AM." So, say to the people, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:13-14)

March 6 ~ God is Breath
March 13 ~ God is Song
March 20 ~ God is Restoration
March 27 ~ God is She
April 3 ~ God is Love
April 10 ~ God is Grace

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 6 and throughout Lent, preacher and writer, Rob Bell will stretch our understanding who God is through his video series entitled Nooma. Our noon worship will have a traditional Spoken Word liturgy and classic hymns. Our 6:30 p.m. worship will use the beloved Holden Evening Prayer liturgy and a blend of music. Please join us for worship. Soup is served one hour prior to both services. Nursery Care available at 6:30pm.

Prayer, Care & Support Corner

New Grief Support Group Begins

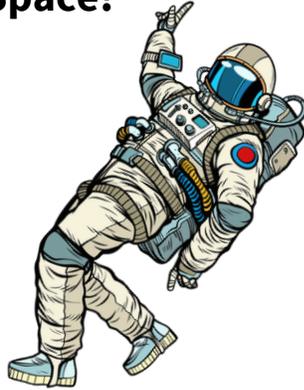
Have you experienced or are experiencing loss and are needing a team of supporters? A Grief Support Group is starting at Good Shepherd. We will meet for the first time on Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. At our first gathering we will discuss impressions from the book entitled "And Life Comes Back" by Tricia Loft Williford. We encourage you to read the book prior to coming, however, with that said, when your grieving reading is hard. In that case, just come to listen. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Leesa

Lifelong Learning

Vacation Bible School Monday, June 10 - Thursday, June 13 Amazing Space!

This year in VBS we will learn about:

God's Amazing Grace,
God's Amazing Son
& the Amazing Spaces
that God has provided us!



"For God did not send God's Son into the world to judge the world, but to save the world through Jesus" ~John 3:17

VBS am is 9am-12pm for Ages 3.5 to Grade 5

VBS pm is 12-4pm for Grades K-5

Costs: \$40 per child half a day, \$75 per child full day. Family rates and scholarships available on request.

Growing Through Loss

The Interdenominational Coalition of South Suburban Churches, of which Good Shepherd is a member, is please to present a five-week series entitled "*Growing Through Loss*". Join us for one or all sessions on Thursday evenings, March 14, 21, 28 and April 4 and 11, from 6:30-9:00pm, at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley. Suggested donation per session is \$3.00. Please call Barb Korman at 651.452.8261 or email growingthroughloss@gmail.com with questions.

Topics will include:

- March 14 ~ Grief Demystified - And Overview of Grief
- March 21 ~ Grief and Resiliency
- March 28 ~ Shattered Hopes and Dreams: Responses
- April 4 ~ Sensing the Presence of Our Loved Ones After Death, How God Comforts and Reassures us
- April 11 ~ Evening of Remembrance

The Fall Series will be held at Good Shepherd! Watch future newsletters for more information.

The Year of Luke Bible Study

Pastor Tommy's Bible study is underway with Luke. Join us on the journey through this Gospel on Tuesdays @ 6:30pm or Thursdays @10am. It is the same Bible study both sessions each week, so come to whichever one best fits your calendar. It is never too late to join!

Bible Studies are also available on the Disciples (Thursday at 7:00pm) and on Philippians (1st & 3rd Thursday at 10:00am)

First Communion Instruction Class

For All Ages

Tuesday, April 9 @ 5:30am-7:00pm
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: Maundy Thursday, April 18 @ 6:30pm & Easter Sunday, April 21 @ 8:00, 9:15 or 10:30am.

Community Building

Tacos & Talents

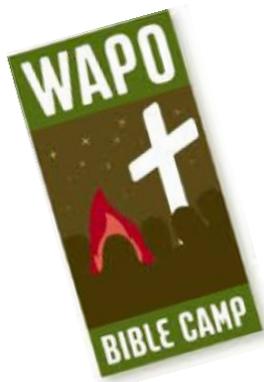


Join us on Sunday, March 3rd from 11:30-1:30 for Tacos & Talents! This will be our second year of having an All-Church talent show comprised of people sharing a variety of gifts and talents such as singing, playing musical instruments as well as visual arts of painting, drawings and needlecraft etc. Tacos and ice cream will be served to enjoy as well. Admission will be a food donation for Neighbors, Inc.

Summer Camp Theme



Through this summer's theme, CLAIMED - WILDLY LOVED BY GOD, campers will have a blast playing, singing, making crafts, worshipping and developing friendships in order to learn Jesus' teaching about the importance of relationships & God's call for us to live together in community.



Summer Camp Registration!



Your children and youth are invited to take part in attending Wapo or Ox Lake Lutheran Bible Camp this Summer! These camps are located outside of Amery, WI on the beautiful Lake Wappogasset.

Register by March 15 and your child is eligible to receive an optional Campership for \$80 to help defray costs. Registration and more information can be found online on our website www.goodshepherdigh.com. You can click the 'summer banner' or 'ministries'. Both will lead you to our summer activities page where you will find 'register HERE'.

Scholarships are available upon request to Pastor Leesa (pastorleesa@goodshepherdigh.com). We do not want finances to deter anyone from attending this incredible camp experience!!!

Camp Options:

- **Children** completing **grades 1 & 2** attend the **WAPO SEEDS** weekend from Friday, June 14 - Sunday, June 16.
- **Children** completing **grades 3, 4 & 5** attend the **WAPO Bible Camp** from Sunday, June 16 - Friday, June 21.
- **Confirmation Youth** completing **grades 6, 7 & 8** attend the **OX LAKE Bible Camp** from Sunday, June 16 - Friday, June 21.

We will provide a bus on Sunday, June 16 to take the kids to WAPO and OX LAKE camps. There will be a small extra charge for taking the bus. Children and youth need to be picked up by parents, grandparents or adult friends on Friday, June 21 after 11:00 family worship.

Contributing our Blessings



Minnesota Food Share Penny Wars

We hope you are saving your pennies and coins for March Food Share Month. Bring the whole piggy bank, clean under those couch cushions! Because we're going to be competing in **Good Shepherd's first ever Penny Wars**. We will be splitting into teams to compete for the most spare change to benefit Neighbors Inc. In Penny Wars every penny and coin you collect (up to silver dollars) are worth positive points for your team (each penny equals 2 points, all other coins are points equal to their monetary value), the catch is, every bill put in your team's jar is worth negative points. So other teams can sabotage all your hard work simply by adding a fifty to your jar!

Weather your team wins or loses, everyone served by Neighbors Inc. will be the real winners, as it all goes to benefit a good cause.



Thank you Mission Trip Stockholders!

Hats off to everyone who purchased stock in us and our mission to serve the good folks of Chicago this summer. This opportunity would not be possible without your support. Mission Trip Participants continue to gather each month to build friendships, serve locally and learn more about Chicago.

The next meeting will be on March 10 @ 11:30

Chili & Bingo - Thank You!

A HUGE thank you to all who helped make our Chili and Bingo night a spicy success! Thanks for all the volunteers who helped run things in the background like selling bingo cards, serving chili, announcing bingo, securing donations, helping Pastor Tommy to cook, cleaning, and everyone who helped in big ways or small. Thank you as well to all the local businesses that donated prizes to help make this event possible. But an especially big thank you for all of your generosity, because we raised almost \$1,500 for neighbors and had fun doing it!

2019 Council Members

Thank you to our Council Members for serving as leaders and visionaries of Good Shepherd!

Beth Borgen-Lindberg
President

Matt Walkowiak
Vice President

Greta Bliet
Treasurer

Christine Schmitz
Secretary

Kimberly Cleary
Social Ministry Team

Arden Fritz
Facilities Team

Kathy Gamlen
Hospitality Team

Nathan Holt
InterGen Team

Brian Hurt
Hospitality Team

Cole Kelly
Adult Ministry

Cathie O'Neill Saver
Care & Prayer

Chris Schipp
Facilities Team

Contributing Our Blessings

Mission Trip Moments from Flathead, Montana

Beginning with the 25 hour train ride, yes 25 hours!, I was trying to mentally prepare myself for, what I was told, was supposed to be the most intense mission trip yet. For those who don't know we took a mission trip to Flathead, Montana, where poverty was supposed to be at its worst. Arriving to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Sunday night, I was completely wiped. We got our cabins and went right to bed. I woke up Monday morning with what I thought was the sight of snow peaking through our cabin shades, its summer so I sprang out of bed, ran to the window, and whipped the curtains open. I was in complete awe along with the rest of my cabin. Our cabin sat on the edge of this hill and it overlooked Flathead Lake which meant we saw mountains. At that very moment I thought, this is going to be the best mission trip yet. Monday passed along with Tuesday and we still hadn't seen that much poverty, as a matter of fact I began to think "are we even needed here?" Of course we were serving but I thought we were serving the business owners, not the community members. Once Wednesday rolled around you could tell our group was kinda dragging a little. This was the day we got assigned new groups. My group was assigned to the Boys and Girls Club of Polson. Our first day with them was pretty crazy. We got to the place and introduced ourselves to about 60 kids, ranging from age 6-13. Then after introductions we walked the 60ish kids to the beach and that was the activity for the rest of the day. After service my new group reflected about the day. Everyone in my group was confused on why we were helping these kids. They seemed to be doing just fine, it really felt like we were babysitting. We woke up Thursday morning and we just weren't in the mood to watch these kids. We arrived to the Boys and Girls Club at about 10am and walked to the library. This is where I met my dear friend Jonny, Jonny with a "y" not with an "e" he wanted to make that all very clear to you. Jonny is a 7 year old boy with a heart of gold and titch of autism. We walked to the library together and he talked about everything ranging from eating a burger the night before to how much he loves his parents. I hung out with Jonny that whole day, and I kept thinking to myself this kid is just so happy, he lights up a room. Until he sat down with me and started to talk about how much he gets bullied. This broke my heart, but he managed to smile and say, "the only reason they pick on me is because they're jealous." I realized he has a good support system backing him up. But then you have a kid like Bradley, who is 8, he wakes up every morning at 6am to make himself his own breakfast and walk himself to the Boys and Girls Club. He has moved 7 times because of his mom's boyfriends. And then there's 7 year old Kendra who's house was just infested with rats but her mom can't afford to get a new one. These stories can go on and on and then you realize that everyone at the Boys and Girls Club struggles with something. This trip for me was an eye opener on my own life. I am SO blessed! I got to experience the most beautiful nature that God has created and along with building closer relationships with people in my own church. Along with finding my purpose for this mission trip, it definitely wasn't right in front of my face, but after searching I realized that these kids at Boys and Girls Club just want to talk and have us listen and they want to be related to. I know and they know that I can't go home with them but at least they can know that someone on a 25 hour train ride away knows their story. I can't express the gratitude I have for the church for letting it be possible to experience such beauty in the nature but also the people. I am very thankful.

~Ellie Lanik



You are Invited!
Come celebrate with us
the hard work and
dedication of all our
volunteers.



Volunteer Appreciation
Sunday is March 17th.

*Stay for special treats
after all services!*



Lenten Worship

March 6 - April 10

Wednesdays @ 12:00 & 6:30pm



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH