



GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter February 2018

XLII, ISSUE II

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Lenten Journey: *“Open My Life, Lord”*

Ash Wednesday February 14; Lenten Services Set

Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Our services will be held at noon and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary and include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Also, an [Intentional Time of Prayer will be ongoing in the sanctuary that day from 1 til 5 p.m.](#) The sanctuary will be open for you to come for reflection and prayer.

Each Wednesday thereafter, a Lenten service will be held at noon and 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will have Lenten suppers again this year at 5:30 p.m. in the FAB. The suppers will be coordinated by Susan Weaver (Feb. 21 – chili), Gaye Collins (Feb. 28 – soup), Neal Inman (Mar. 7 – TBA), Cheryl Christian (Mar. 14 – hot dogs) and Jay Jenny (Mar. 21 – lasagna). If you can help prepare, serve and/or clean-up for one of the suppers, please speak to one of these folks and join in the fun of working together. Reservations for the suppers are not required and there is no charge. However, donations will be received at each supper to contribute to one of Columbia’s homeless shelters. During this reflective-meditative season, let’s remember and help those in need in our community.

Commit to take part in our Lenten *“Open My Life, Lord”* journey! Our prayer is that all of us have a meaningful and faith-filled Lenten season.



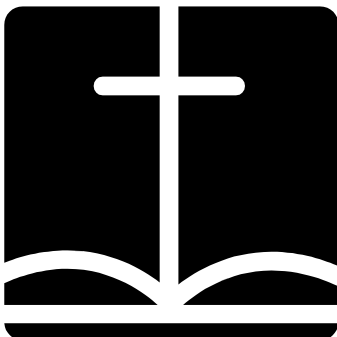
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING IS FEB. 4

Upcoming Events -

2-4-18 ---The YOGS invite the entire congregation, their friends and families to join us on **Sunday, February 4** for a hot meal in the FAB immediately following the 10:30 service.

Since 2001, with your support and help, our youth have raised over \$10,000+ which has been given back to local charities and organizations in our community. This nationwide event helps raise awareness, fights hunger and poverty in our own communities, around the time of the Super Bowl.

Please email mitchuehling@gmail.com or call 804-405-8908 to help prepare, set up, clean up and/or serve this meal. All youth of GSLC are encouraged to share their time and talents for this great cause. A love offering will be collected with 100% of the proceeds donated to St. Lawrence Place.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

We can't think about church ministry in the same we have before. A colleague recently mentioned that he's been sharing that message with his congregation, but he didn't think he was getting through. But recently, one disciple said to him: Pastor, it's not just us. Other congregations are in the same boat as we are.

It feels like the changes the church is undergoing have happened in the twinkling of an eye, but those who study congregational and societal changes first noticed the symptoms many decades ago. Acknowledging that significant change is upon the church is critical for congregational growth.

David Brown is a pastor and church consultant. In a recent blogpost he wrote: The tyranny of the urgent dominates our workplaces, homes, public squares, and churches. We put more effort behind the tried and true methods and models of our institutional past, but find them producing diminishing returns. What we do know and are comfortable doing just doesn't seem to work as well as it once did. We double down, work harder, and worry more. Our creativity is stifled, and our anxiety level continues to rise. Too often our churches take cues from the restless anxiety, widespread fear, and exaggerated climate.

Can we let go the push to fill committee positions with warm bodies rather than encouraging disciples to pursue their passions and engage their giftedness? Can we stop scheduling programs and meetings that do not resonate with our core identity and mission? Can we create space for those connected with our churches to experience communal rest and to develop deep, meaningful relationships with another?

We cannot recreate the "golden age" of the first century church or the nostalgia of the "glory days" of the late 20th century church. Bu maybe we could sit around the table together a little more often, create time to listen and pray with one another, celebrate and cultivate community across lines of difference. Who knows what might happen if we did.

Who knows?

Thanks to the Rev. David Brown for granting permission to reprint part of his post from Pinnacle Leadership Associates blog posted January 9, 2018.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that January is gone and with that being said, we are off to a running start at Good Shepherd. My first month as your Council President has presented some challenges and a lot of opportunities for growth here at GSLC. With the leadership of Pastor Karen, we are exploring some new and different ideas about how things are done and could be done to be more effective. We have added a class for Sunday School that had been dormant since Walter became ill. It is good to see the excitement this brought to the people joining in the adult study series being taught by Lula Camp. We have also placed a new emphasis on Sunday School in general. Watch for some new and interesting ideas coming in the future.

I would like to thank David Hill for his services as the Treasurer for over ten years. Rebecca Richardson will assume duties as Acting Treasurer at this time.

In the absence of a Parish Administrator, we will continue to use office volunteers until the position is filled. **All correspondence that goes into the bulletin, on the calendar, or in the newsletter should stil be emailed to barbara@gslc.com with a copy to becky@shealytruck.com.** A special thanks to Susan Sturkie and Rosemary Nance for stepping up to prepare the bulletins and newsletters. Wade Wingard is making sure that the email blasts with congregational news are being updated and sent on their regular schedule. Thank you for all you do to make communications at GSLC so informative and timely.

On February 25th, Bishop Herman Yoos will join us for our Sunday worship service and will lead a round table in the FAB following a covered dish lunch. At this time, we will explore what we as a congregation are doing and where we would like to go. There will be questions to be answered that will aid in the search for a new pastor. After this meeting, Congregation Council will begin preparations to name a call committee to begin the search for our new Pastor. It is very important that each and every member make a special effort to be present for this round table discussion so everyone will have a voice in deciding the answers to the questions that the Synod will bring.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Good Shepherd during our transition period. If you are called on to volunteer, please step up and say I will be glad to help.

Becky Shealy



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for
Sunday
School in
February

The Come & See Class, which meets in Classroom 1 in the sanctuary basement, will be studying the parables in Matthew. This study will focus on the ten parables that are found only in Matthew. Through parables Jesus revealed “the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 13:11-15) and “utters things hidden since the creation of the world” (Mt 13:34-35). We will seek to discover the secrets disclosed in each parable and will consider how these parables challenge us in our spiritual and in our secular lives. All are welcome to come and see what these parables are saying to God’s people. The study leader will be **Bruce Shealy**.

In Classroom 2, **The Around the Corner Class** will be looking at the Enneagram 9 Personality Traits and taking a class on each one. This class will be using a book called *Nine Portraits of Jesus, Discovering Jesus through the Enneagram*. You can find your Enneagram type by taking a test at 9Types.com or the Enneagram Institute. We will be looking at Type 6, 7, 8, and 9. We will discuss how to finish the rest of the year with either a book study or a discussion. The study leader will be **Peter Zornow**.

In the **Parlor Class**, **Mitch Mackinem** will lead the class in conducting an in-depth examination of Romans through February and March.

The Fellowship Class, in Classroom 5, will be led by **Lula Camp** using the Methodist Adult Bible Series. The February topic is *Self-Controlled, Upright Godly Faith*. This will include class discussion and the singing of some familiar hymns.

Week One Topic—*Faith Without Work is Dead*

Week Two Topic—*A Discipled Faith*

Week Three Topic—*Faithful Disciples*

Week Four Topic—*Good Fight of Faith*

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER, TALENT SHOW SET

**Shrove Tuesday,
February 13**

The YOGS invite the entire congregation to a pancake supper at 6:00 p.m. in the FAB. Come enjoy a tasty meal and entertainment by the many talented members of GSLC performing in the benefit. A love offering will be collected to raise funds to help our youth attend the National Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. All of our youth attending the NYG will be assisting in set up, clean up and preparation of this meal. If you are interested in sharing your talent please contact lisaboozer@gmail.com or mitchuehling@gmail.com.



YOGS Winter Retreat

The YOGS had a meaningful Winter Retreat. Using the National Youth Gathering's Bible studies, they studied the Reformation and Homelessness. They donated 105 pounds of food and helped 93 families (300+ people) at the Calvary Episcopal Food Pantry. Their Sunday worship offering was donated to Good Shepherd's food pantry. They wish to thank their chaperones Deborah Whitlow, Kathy Ferry, Lisa Boozer, Smitty, Phil and Leigh Ann Tollison.

First Communion Instruction

If you understand your child is ready to take communion, please speak with Pastor Hawkins (803.787.4413) to talk about preparing for this important milestone. Children who receive instruction during Lent will commune for the first time on Palm/Passion Sunday.



FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Adult Sunday School classes meet downstairs. Come at 9 a.m. for fellowship, coffee, and brief announcements before class begins. Join any class you like — our classes are always open for new folks!

“COME & SEE” CLASS—CLASSROOM 1

Bruce Shealy will lead the study of the parables of Matthew.

AROUND THE CORNER CLASS—CLASSROOM 2

This class will be looking at the Enneagram 9 Personality Traits led by Peter Zornow.

PARLOR CLASS—CLASSROOM 3

The class will be conducting an in-depth examination of Romans through February and March, led by Mitch Mackinem.

FELLOWSHIP CLASS—CLASSROOM 5

Lula Camp will lead an adult Bible study dealing with faith.

WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

Service during worship is crucial to the functioning of our church services, so it is important to be present on the date assigned. If you cannot be here, get a replacement and notify the church office (787-4413) **by 9 a.m. on the Wednesday morning before** your assignment. If you can't trade with someone and need assistance, please contact the following:

<u>SERVICE AREA</u>	<u>CONTACT PERSON</u>
Worship Life	Nancy Hyatt, Chair, 873-9449
8:30a.m.	Susan Weaver 600-1936
10:30a.m.	Jeff Inabinet February Usher Chair 738-2622
Worship Assistants	Nancy Hyatt 873-9449
Acolytes & Crucifers	Neal Inman 788-5421
Nursery	Sarah Evans 315-7141
Contemporary Coord.	Susan Weaver 600-1936

Pastor Karen: 803-252-1327

NOTE: The church office is closed on Sunday mornings. In case of emergency, call 803-787-4413 and leave a message for the pastor.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Noon service: Don Caughman, Lector & Communion Assistant

6:30 p.m. service: Cheryl Christian, Lector & Communion Assistant

Ushers: Richard Inman, Lauren Chandler,
Jeff Inabinet, Perry Shuping

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS (ACCORDING TO CHURCH RECORDS)

1	Bob Fortner	5	Corley Frierson	9	Micki Morris	15	Shawn Holt	21	Trace Cannon
	Sandra Lybrand	6	Terri Tokaz	12	Trisha Benson			22	Evan Stallings
	Kaitlin McFarland		Gus Inabinet		Sara Burrows	16	Judy Hoy	23	Melissa Ellington
	Ephraim Ulmer	7	Sienna Fettig		Deb Embrey		Claire Mayer	24	Becky Shealy
2	Emily Headley	8	Connie Donovan		Al Kahrs	17	Kathy Ferry	26	Jason Ortiz
	Jim Howard		Emerson Shelton	13	Lillian Ford	18	Katie Green		Jim Johnson
3	Phill Netzel		Marcia Woodward		Katie Wingard	19	Adam Ortiz		Joann Nagy
		9	Leigh Ford	14	Harrison Seay		Ed Woodward	28	Violet Fetner
			Beth Jirel		Jean Ray	21	Chris Dionne		

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP STEWARDSHIP FOR FEBRUARY

DATE	02/04/18 10:30 a.m.	02/11/18	02/18/18	02/25/18	03/04/18
GREETERS	Jean Cockrell Linda Taylor	Deb Embrey Nancy Hyatt	Nancy Hyatt	Jerry and Judy Rogers	Greg and Carole Sox
USHERS	Jeff Inabinet Richard Inman Lauren Chandler Zak Taylor	Greg Sox Jim Lalumondier Jerry Rogers Perry Shuping	Richard Inman Lauren Chandler Zak Taylor Perry Shuping	Jeff Inabinet Greg Sox Jim Lalumondier Jerry Rogers	Team 2
ACOLYTE	Grayce Boozer	Kadin Hogue	Isabella Fettig	Jaden Porter	Jack Burrows
CRUCIFER	Maddie Boozer	Forrest Havird	Sam Seay	Jake Lalumondier	Harrison Seay
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Lula Camp-L Joey Allison-C	Gaye Collins L&C	Stacy Gross-L Cathy Quinton-C	Mitch Mackinem-L Becky Shealy-C	Millie Sox-L Kerry Stubbs-C
NURSERY	Kimi Dail (also SS)	Kimi Dail (also SS)	Carole Sox & Lennae Sox Anna Lawson (SS)	Kimi Dail (also SS) Ashleigh Taylor	
ALTAR CARE	Neal Inman	Neal Inman	Neal Inman	Neal Inman	
TABULATORS	Mary Stallings Mary Margaret Hoy	Jerry Vaughn Karen Lucas	Rebecca Richardson Mitch Uehling	Terri Tokaz Lavina Chandler	Leigh Ford Lisa Boozer

COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH: Ed Beaman

OPENING BUILDINGS: Mike Brown

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP STEWARDSHIP FOR FEBRUARY

DATE	02/04/18	02/11/18	02/18/18	02/25/18	03/04/18
GRUSHERS	Ken Jirel Frances Plyler	Mike Brown Rebecca Richardson	Jim Donovan Steve Steck	Mike & Susan Weaver	Usher Team 1
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Beth Jirel (L&C)	Barbara Nagy (L&C)	Joan Nagy (L&C)	Steve Steck (L&C)	Patty Branham (L&C)
NURSERY	Kimi Dail (also SS)	Kimi Dail (also SS)	Katie Bostic Anna Lawson (SS)	Pat Quattlebaum Marilyn Hogan	TBA
ALTAR CARE	Frances Plyler	Mary Stallings	Betti Stroud	Susan Weaver	Patty Branham



February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>4 Souper Bowl of Caring 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Fellowship 9:25 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45 AM "Souper Bowl" Lunch (FAB)</p>	<p>5 6:00 PM NA (Conference Room)</p>	<p>6 11:30 AM Bible Study (CI-2) 5:30 PM Evangelism Comm. OA Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (CI-4) 6:30 PM Learning Comm. Mtg. (CI-2)</p>
<p>11 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Fellowship 9:25 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 3:00 PM Beloved Ministry (FAB) 4:00 PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>12 6:00 PM NA (Conference Room)</p>	<p>13 11:30 AM Bible Study (CI-2) 4:30 PM Executive Committee 5:30 PM OA Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (CI-4) 6:00 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (FAB)</p>
<p>18 11th & 12th Gr. LCY Winter Retreat Food Pantry Sunday 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Fellowship 9:25 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:30 PM Congregational Council (CI-</p>	<p>19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:00 PM NA (Conference Room)</p>	<p>20 11:30 AM Bible Study (CI-2) 5:30 PM OA Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (CI-4) 6:00 PM Constitution Committee 6:00 PM Small Group Ministry (CI-2)</p>
<p>25 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Fellowship 9:25 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45 PM SPIRIT LED TIME OF <u>RENEWAL</u> 4:00 PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>26 6:00 PM NA (Conference Room)</p>	<p>27 11:30 AM Bible Study (CI-2) 5:30 PM OA Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00 PM Centering Prayer (CI-4)</p>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p> <p>10:00 AM Mary Group 5:30 PM OA Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00 PM Mentoring Program (Youth Room)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:45 AM Day School Chapel 6:00 PM NA (Conference Room) 6:00 PM Property Comm. Mtg. (CI-4) 7:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 PM OA Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00 PM Mentoring Program (Youth Room) 6:30 PM Finance Comm. Mtg. (CI-2)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 PM Fun Fridays (FAB)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30 AM Tanzania Group Mtg. (FAB)</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Ash Wednesday / Lent Begins 9:45 AM Day School Chapel 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary) 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Intentional Time of Prayer 6:00 PM NA (Conference Room) 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>2:00 PM Visitation Ministry 5:30 PM OA Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00 PM Mentoring Program (Youth Room) 6:30 PM Dorcas Group 6:30 PM Tamar Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11th & 12th Grade LCY Winter Retreat 12:00 PM Live Wire</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11th & 12th Grade LCY Winter Retreat 9:30 AM Lutheran Men Meeting</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:45 AM Day School Chapel 12:00 PM Lenten Service (Sanctuary) 5:30 PM Supper (FAB) 6:00 PM NA (Conference Room) 6:30 PM Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 PM OA Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00 PM Mentoring Program (Youth Room)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:45 AM Day School Chapel 12:00 PM Lenten Service (Sanctuary) 5:30 PM Supper (FAB) 6:00 PM NA (Conference Room) 6:30 PM Worship Service (Sanctuary) 7:15 PM Choir Practice</p>			

With Prayer

<i>Ray Adams</i>	<i>Rose Butterfield</i>	<i>Dot George</i>	<i>Gigi Middlebrooks</i>	<i>Tommie Spence</i>
<i>Mary Allen</i>	<i>GINNA CAUGHMAN</i>	<i>Martha Haigler</i>	<i>Margaret Moody</i>	<i>Virginia Stephens</i>
<i>Rev. Russ Anderson</i>	<i>Mary Dent</i>	<i>Louise Hayes</i>	<i>Irene Poole</i>	<i>Dot Sterling</i>
<i>Joanna Carpenter</i>	<i>Marianne DeWerd</i>	<i>Barb Kent</i>	<i>Nell Reynolds</i>	<i>Jean Sundlie</i>
<i>Loujean Baker</i>	<i>Marian Dunlop</i>	<i>Sara Loyd</i>	<i>Alice Riley</i>	<i>Nancy Taylor</i>
<i>Grace Boozer</i>	<i>Wilhelmina Edwards</i>	<i>Claire Mayer</i>	<i>Alex and Dot Gibert</i>	<i>Gloria Truluck</i>
<i>Rosemarie Brown</i>	<i>Larry Evans</i>	<i>Doris McCaughey</i>	<i>Allen Shealy</i>	<i>Melvin Wicker</i>
<i>Karen Jenny</i>	<i>Betty Fowler</i>	<i>Vic Milejczak</i>	<i>Margie Slice</i>	

Friends and Relatives

Erna Allison—mother of Joey Allison
Tara Baker—daughter-in-law of Loujean Baker
Jonathan Baker—son of Loujean Baker
Raynette Kempf—sister of Loujean Baker

DEPLOYED

Ryan Fink
Preston Haigh
Andrew Fettig



With Sympathy

We extend sympathy to the families of:

Virginia Aull
Robert Cook — brother of Sara Loyd
Virginia Kinney

THERE'S A NEED FOR...

- Personal-sized toiletries for various shelters
- Wide-mouthed pill bottles
- Plastic grocery bags
- Food donations
- Shoes

Collection bins for these items are in the hallway across from the office. **Please note:** If there is no bin for an item, that item is not needed at this time. Thank you for your support!

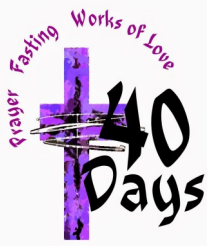
Food Pantry



Food Pantry Sunday is the third Sunday of each month, however, food donations may be left in the bin outside the church office at any time. Items that are always

needed are rice, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and pasta sauce, canned meats, canned vegetables, and hot and cold cereals. Food is given out each Wednesday afternoon. The number of persons coming for food varies from week to week, but so far this year we have had as many as 26 requests one week and as low as five another week.

In 2017, we had 172 persons representing 714 family members come for food. There were 439 visits (some came only once or twice, a few came as many as 10 times) representing a total of 1,758 persons receiving food. Recipients can come only once a month.



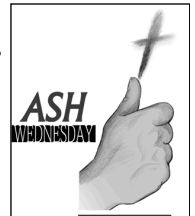
Season of Lent –

Time for Reflecting, Reconnecting and Recommitting

From February 14 (Ash Wednesday), continuing to March 31 (Holy Saturday), we will celebrate the 40 days of Lent. When we look at the calendar, however, we realize there are actually 46 days in that time period. Those extra days are the Sundays not included in the Lenten observance. During these “free” days, it is traditional to celebrate the resurrection of Christ – “little Easters.” For we are indeed “Easter people.”

What is your tradition for the season? Rooted in Jesus’ 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, do you fast? Do you give up something? Or do you add something? Usually if one does something for that length of time – 40 days – it becomes a habit. During this time, we are able to reflect, examine and learn. Lent is about spiritual results.

With this Lenten season, let’s commit to continuing or adding a habit of coming together for all the opportunities offered to us during this holy season. Begin with attending our repentant Ash Wednesday service. Share in a time of fellowship, food and worship the five Wednesday evenings, 6:30, in Lent. A noontime worship opportunity will also be available. Join in the reflective services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. And, recommit to attending Sunday School and worship each Sunday.



Ash Wednesday

Intentional Time of Prayer will be ongoing in the sanctuary that day from 1 til 5 p.m. (Feb. 14)

Live Wire

Live Wire will meet on February 16, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share with everyone. We will be playing white elephant bingo so bring a gift or gifts wrapped from your house that you want to get rid of. Please come out and join the fun and fellowship with everyone.

Those age 55 and over are invited to join the group. This will be a fun time !

Congregational Council Terms Task Force

Early in 2017, Congregational Council brought forth a motion to change Council terms to 2 years and to reduce the number of Council members to 12. After much discussion at the called Congregational meeting, the motion was tabled, and Council agreed to revisit the issue with more in depth research and analysis of what is best going forward for Good Shepherd. A Task Force has been formed and members include Stacy Gross (Chair), Ed Beaman, Amy Kemp, Jeff Inabinet, Gaye Collins, and Pastor Karen Hawkins. The first meeting was held in early January, and the Task Force will continue to meet until we can decipher what God’s intention is for Good Shepherd. If you have any feedback for the Task Force, please feel free to contact any of the above members or Stacy Gross via email or phone (sgross@heathwood.org, 803-261-8591). Thank you for your patience and prayer for insight and guidance.

Lutheran Men in Mission



Come join the Lutheran Men for fellowship and breakfast at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Denny's on Fairfield Rd and 1-20. We discussed having possible social and service activities throughout the year such as: a Fireflies Baseball Game, a Fish Fry, a Christmas Dinner, and a Men's Retreat. We need your ideas, and we want to emphasize having fun.

The Lutheran Men's group is open to all male members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and friends.

Come and support the Lutheran Men and to have fellowship with your church members. For more information, contact: Peter Zornow (803)542-7071 email: zornowpd@juno.com.



Good Shepherd Wins Award!

Good Shepherd has been selected for the 2017 Community Partner Award. This award, presented at the annual meeting of Senior Resources is given each year to a corporation, church, or organization that has provided major support to Senior Resources through financial donation, sponsorship, or assistance with a major project or needed service. By providing facilities for the **Meals on Wheels** Program, Good Shepherd continues to support the mission of Senior Resources in providing much needed assistance to seniors in our community.

"Thank you so much for ringing the bell with us this season! We are so grateful for the community support.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church raised a total of \$353.52 in the kettle on 12/2 and \$365.27 on 12/7.

That is awesome!!

Thank you so much! We look forward to working with your group again in 2018!"

Note: The total raised by the Red Kettle Campaign in the Midlands this year was \$346,016.36.

Sarah Newcomb, Salvation Army of the Midlands



Lutheran Disaster Response Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

this season of unprecedented generosity, as together we support communities hard-hit by disasters including hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires.

Your gifts to *Lutheran Disaster Response* help provide supplies needed immediately like water and generators, and support for long term recovery: disaster case management, volunteer team placement, community development and professional care for daily and continuing challenges.

Thank you for your trust in this work we do as church here and around the world. Through your generosity, you are sharing with neighbors near and far, revealing God's holy promises of peace, hope, shelter and safety, restoration and abundance.

In the light and life of Christ,
The Rev. Daniel Rift

LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY 2018

FEBRUARY 4 - FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

FEBRUARY 11- TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's beloved son. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine out of darkness at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he

rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

FEBRUARY 18 - FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

FEBRUARY 25 - SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

Psalm: Psalm 22:23-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

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Calendar



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!



Feb. 4 — Souper Bowl of Caring

Feb. 13— Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Feb. 14— Ash Wednesday

Feb. 18 — Food Pantry Sunday

Feb. 25 — Spirit Led Time of Renewal



Mar. 29 — Maundy Thursday

Mar. 30 — Good Friday