



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Ministers: All The People of The Congregation

Called by God to: Grow; Serve; Love; Care and Worship

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany. February 23, 2014

9:00 a.m. Worship. * Please stand

Prelude

Welcome

*Gathering Song “All Are Welcome”. ELW 641

***Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the Word was life,

and the life was the light of all people.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

C: Holy God of compassion, you invite us into your way of forgiveness and peace. Lead us to love our enemies, and transform our words and deeds to be like his through whom we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Choir Anthem “You Are Holy”. Adult Choir

First Lesson Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. ⁹When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God. ¹¹You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹²And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord. ¹³You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. ¹⁶Do you

not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. ¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." ²¹So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future--all belong to you, ²³and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Announcement of Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 5.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Gospel Matthew 5:38-48

“Here’s another old saying that deserves a second look: ‘Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.’ Is that going to get us anywhere? Here’s what I propose: ‘Don’t hit back at all.’ If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously. “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best--the sun to warm and the rain to nourish--to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. “In a word, what I’m saying is, *Grow up.* You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

The Sermon

*Song. “God of Grace and God of Glory”. ELW 705

*The Apostles’ Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Peace**

The Prayers of the Church (kneel or sit)

The Offering

Offertory - Lord of Light ELW 688 vs 1 (printed)

**Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
Use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace;
Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son.
Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.**

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray...God of all creation,
all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

***Blessing**

May the God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

***Sending Song** "When Peace like a River"..... ELW 785

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

Thanks be to God.

Birthdays - Feb. 23-March 1 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

23-Gordon Treptow	25-Chris Druckenmiller	26-Gordon Hansen	1-Mary Alger
24-Brady Bye	25-Esme Eytcheson	26-Coni Olson	1-Beth Heggen
24-Chad Groskreutz	25-Lori Fette	27-Bob Eckwright III	1-Nathan Niebuhr
24-Jeff ovrebo	25-Nolan Magnuson	27-Jaycie Routh	1-Richard Winch
25-Cobi Bullerman			

Wednesday Worship, 6:00-6:45 p.m. Enjoy a home cooked meal on Wednesdays, serving from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Suggested meal donation: \$4.00/person, \$15.00 max/family.

Help Wanted: Wednesday Evening Cook to prepare, help serve and clean-up after the meal before Wednesday evening worship service. Starting at \$60.00/week. Application and job description may be picked up in the church office and returned by Feb. 28, 2014.

Important Rescheduling Notice - "Letting Go of the Past" is being moved to Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m on March 2nd. This healing event for the congregation originally scheduled for the 16th had encountered some scheduling conflicts and is being planned for Sunday, March 2nd at 3:00 p.m.

It is no secret that there have been difficulties and disappointments at Good Shepherd related to challenges the congregation has faced in the past. Most recent was Pr. Kathy's call to serve as solo pastor, this not working well, and her subsequent earlier than expected departure. This situation and others matters put people on edge and have strained relationships. I sense a desire among leaders and members to "put these things behind us." I am proposing a way for the congregation to let go and neutralize the strength of the past. As a member of Good Shepherd you are invited to be a part of this healing event.

The goal of our time together is to hear and acknowledge past events and feelings. When we do so, we will be able to move into the future without the weight of the past. The "success" of this event depends upon individuals' willingness to participate. Pr. Soli will facilitate and create a safe place for the sharing.

The event will last about two hours (or more). A personal invitation will be extended to past and present congregation leaders to participate. Your willingness to be part of this event is important and will help heal and open up the door to a new and exciting future for the congregation.

Think global....Act local - You may recall when Esther Dundas of Wells visited Good Shepherd to share her ministry in Ukraine. Joelle Elmer Jacobs and her husband Scott will be visiting Esther in Rivne, Ukraine and hope to bring 2 suitcases stuffed with items for the children in her church. Esther is involved in Sunday school, youth club and day camps for children from 6-16.

The Good Shepherd Global Mission Team will be collecting items and cash through March 23rd. Cash is needed to pay the extra cost of suitcases. Smaller items are preferred as a suitcase can hold many small items compared to a few large items. What is needed? Games (UNO, SkipBo, Phase 10), balls and yo-yos, hair accessories, nail polish, lotion, soap, toothbrushes, school items such as notebooks and pens (blue please), candy, hats & gloves, any other small prize-type items like Matchbox cars. There are boxes at each entrance to the sanctuary. Cash can be left in the office. Nancy Elmer will be speaking to the congregation and will ask for donations as you leave the service. On behalf of Joelle, Esther and the Global Mission Team thank you all for your prayers and support as we show God's love across the globe.

Electric Griddles Needed - The youth will be serving the March Community Supper on March 4th. They will be serving pancakes, sausage, milk, coffee and juice. They are looking for electric griddles to cook the pancakes on. If you have one you would be willing to let them use please contact the church office.

A Reminder to All Sunday School Students - please bring the coins you have collected when you come to Sunday School on March 2nd. We will be counting all of our coins with plans of donating the money to the Good Shepherd Global Mission efforts in Tanzania and Chili.

Let's Talk-Be part of the conversation - The search for Good Shepherd's new pastor is on the horizon. It's time to hear from the whole congregation. In the next few weeks, the Transition Team and Call Committee will be calling members to sign up, attend, and be part of a "Let's Talk" session.

Attending one of the Let's Talk sessions is completely voluntary and if you attend you will be offered the opportunity to speak but not required to do so. Participation is 100% voluntary.

Notes will be taken and gathered from all the sessions. These will include lists of the commonalities named by the groups, the diversity of points of view and opinions on the different aspects of ministry, and a listing of member's needs. The hope is to hear from as many members as possible as the Call Committee begins its work.

Each individual member's participation and contribution to the process is important and valuable. The Let's Talk sessions will help shape the congregation's future and the calling of new pastoral leadership. Please sign up for a time listed below by calling the church office or sign up on the clipboard passed during the worship service. Thank you for being part of the conversation.

Monday, March 3 @ 2:30 – Blair Wegner and Roger Groskreutz

Monday, March 3 @ 7:00 – Sandi Hartman and Dynette Niebuhr hosts

Thursday, March 6 @ 7:00 – Sandi Hartman and Dynette Niebuhr hosts

Saturday, March 8 @ 9:30 – Jim Stern and Rachel Korman hosts

Sunday, March 9 @ 10:30 – Jim Stern and Jon Melby hosts

Monday, March 10 @ 9:30 – Julie Treptow and Gary Hagen hosts

Tuesday, March 11 @ 2:30 – Julie Treptow and Gary Hagen hosts

Wednesday, March 12 @ 7:00 – Jim Stern and Jon Melby hosts

Saturday, March 15 @ 9:30 – Blair Wegner and Council Member hosts

Sunday, March 16 @ 10:30 – Jim Stern and Rachel Korman hosts

Monday, March 17 @ 7:00 – Roger Groskreutz and Council Member hosts

Tuesday, March 18 @ 9:30, Broadway Apts - Julie Treptow and Gwen Peterson

Spring Couple's Retreat - Saturday/Sunday, April 26/27- You and your spouse are invited to a Good Shepherd couple's retreat to be held at The Lodge Resort and Hotel in Forest City, Iowa. We will leave Saturday morning April 26th and return Sunday afternoon the 27th.



Pr. Peter will provide a program to strengthen relationships. He will lead the group in discovering the preferred individual and couple styles of working through disagreements and difficult conversations. These include relationships with partners, children, and family member.

The event will be informal, relaxed, and ample time will be provided for enjoying the amenities offered by The Lodge. Couples will like the hiking and biking trails through the woods and along the river. There are opportunities for golf, kayaking, visiting a winery, fishing, and other recreation.

Cost of the retreat is expected to be less than \$75/couple. This would include food, lodging, and program. Actual cost will depend on room choice and other resources available for the retreat. Limited number of rooms available, deadline is March 14th. Please call the church office to sign up.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper - The youth will be serving the March 4th community meal. Pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk and juice. Serving from 4:00-6:30 p.m.