



# Welcome to Good Shepherd

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

## Today's Worship

September 20, 2015

*"Isaac is Born to Sarah and Abraham"*

*God sends a message to Abraham and Sarah through a traveler passing through their region. They heard a promise from God that they will have a child. Sarah laughed at the thought since she was already very old. God kept his promise and they named their son Isaac, which means "laughter." We follow and are called to trust in a God who has a good sense of humor.*

## Welcome

**\*Gathering/Song of the Month** . . . . "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" . . . . . ELW 733

## Confession and Forgiveness:

P: God is fully aware of all that we seek to hide. Knowing this, we confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection*

P: Faithful God,

**C: You invite us to make room within us for the fulfillment of your promises, but it is difficult to prepare ourselves for what seems impossible. So often we are filled with doubt. Forgive us. Help us believe and trust in you, God. Amen.**

P: God is gracious and forgiving, to the thousandth generation. Christ who has stood at the very center of impossibility says to us, even today: You are loved and forgiven.

**C: Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

**Holy and Faithful One, you appear before us daily. Teach us to gratefully welcome you as a guest, and to recognize the many ways you keep your promises. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

## Children's Message

**Choir Anthem** . . . . "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heaven". . . . . Adult Choir

**Psalm 61** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>**From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;**

<sup>3</sup>for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

<sup>4</sup>**Let me abide in your tent forever, find refuge under the shelter of your wings.**

<sup>5</sup>For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

<sup>6</sup>**Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations!**

<sup>7</sup>May he be enthroned forever before God; appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!

<sup>8</sup>**So I will always sing praises to your name, as I pay my vows day after day.**

## \*Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of Genesis chapter 18.

**C: Praise to you, O Lord.**

**Scripture** . . . . . Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

<sup>1</sup>The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.<sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.<sup>3</sup>He said, "My Lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant.<sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.<sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on--since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."<sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes."<sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.<sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. <sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent."<sup>10</sup>Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.<sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.<sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?"<sup>13</sup>The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'"<sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son."<sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."<sup>1</sup>The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised.<sup>2</sup>Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him.<sup>3</sup>Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.<sup>4</sup>And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.<sup>5</sup>Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.<sup>6</sup>Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me."<sup>7</sup>And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## The Sermon

**The Song of the Day** . . . . "Three Strangers" . . . . . Printed

**\*Apostles' Creed** . . . . . page 105

## \*Sharing the Peace

## Offering/Loose Change Offering

**Offertory Response** . . . . "We Are An Offering" . . . . . ELW 692

**Prayers of the Church** (sit or kneel)

## Words of Institution/The Lord's Prayer

**Distribution**

**Communion Blessing**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Song** . . . . “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” . . . . . ELW 543

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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**Preaching & Presiding:** Rev. Mary Iverson                    **Scripture Reader:** Julie Forderer

**Communion Helpers:** Tom & Lynne Hansen, Kim Stevermer

**Birthdays-Sept 20-26** (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

20-Corbin Cummings	21-Melissa Niebuhr	Diane Lutteke	24-Ben Groskreutz
Ruth Schaper	22-Nancy Christensen	Dan Treptow	25-Amy Anderson
Breanna Wegner			

**The Eternal Candle** is burning this week in loving memory of Mandy Stern, who died Sept. 22, 2006. It is given by Halie Stern, Lyle & Sharen Stern and family.

**September Food Collection** - During the month of September a grocery cart located near the pulpit in the sanctuary will be accepting donations of rice and dried beans. Pinto beans are one example of dried beans that are appreciated by food shelf customers. All food collected will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf.

**Thrivent Financial Child's Play House Ticket Sales** -Thrivent Financial Chapter 31187 are selling tickets for a child's play house to be raffled on Sept. 25, 2015. The proceeds are used by Habitat for Humanity to build affordable housing for people in need. Cost: \$5.00 per ticket or 3 for \$10.00. Contact Lauryne Stern or Karen Niebuhr.

**Sunday School Class to Begin** - Sunday School will begin on Sunday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. The students will begin in worship with their families. After the Children’s Sermon, the teacher for that week will walk the kids out to the classroom near the church offices. The teacher will bring them back to worship before the worship service ends. Please speak with Pastor Mary (553-3513) if you are willing to be a teacher or a substitute in the Sunday School program. Please fill out a registration form and have your child bring it to class the first day they attend.

**Wednesday School Classes Begin** - Wednesday School Classes begin on Wednesday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be held from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. Students can be dropped off and picked up at the classroom which is near the church office. Make sure there is a teacher or an adult in the classroom before you leave your child. Please fill out a registration form and have your child bring it to class the first day they attend. Call the church office (553-3513) if you can volunteer as a helper to assist the teachers during September and October. Students are invited to worship from 6:15 to 6:55 p.m. and can take part in worship by ringing the church bell or helping collect offering by taking a tag from the “worship helper” stand near the back pew. PLEASE NOTE: As a change, the students will not be

leaving midway through worship as they did last year. The class starts after worship and will end at the same time as confirmation class.

**Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** - Communities Fighting Student Hunger Backpack Program will host a Spaghetti Dinner Mon., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 pm or until gone, at United South Central Commons Area. Free will donation. Gluten free pasta available.

**Daily Scripture Readings**

- Sept 21 -Psalm 139:1-18  
2 Kings 5:1-14  
James 4:8-17
- Sept 22 - Psalm 139:1-18  
2 Kings 11:21—12:16  
James 5:1-6
- Sept 23 - Psalm 139:1-18  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
John 8:21-38
- Sept 24 -Psalm 19:7-14  
Exodus 18:13-27  
Acts 4:13-31
- Sept 25 -Psalm 19:7-14  
Deuteronomy 1:1-18  
Acts 12:20-25
- Sept 26 - Psalm 19:7-14  
Deuteronomy 27:1-10  
Matthew 5:13-20

**PB & J “Parents, Babies and Jesus” Class** - New Class for Preschoolers & Parents. *Wednesdays 7:00 -7:30 p.m. beginning Sept.23<sup>rd</sup>*. Good Shepherd is excited to offer a new Wednesday School class for kids who are ages 2 and 3 years old and a parent. Carol Jacobson, who is an Early Childhood Educator, will teach the class each Wednesday from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Good Shepherd nursery beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The PB & J class is a wonderful opportunity to get a free Early Childhood class with your child and help them begin to learn about God and God’s love. A parent or grandparent attends each class with the child and will include a “circle time,” a Bible story, music and a simple craft. Invite friends or neighbors – all are welcome!

**Lutheran Social Service** Auxiliary Fall Rally will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, rural Frost on September 22, 2015 at 1:30. Our guest speaker will be Mary Peterson, wife of Mark Peterson, former CEO of LSS-MN. In gathering gifts are quilts, Treasure Boxes, paper products and cleaning products. We are excited for these honored guests and hope you will all be able to join us.

**Good Shepherd Connect Movies & Plays Group - Kick Off Event** - Sunday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am. Good Shepherd basement Social Hall. The Connect Movies & Plays Group is starting with a kick off planning meeting. Interested? Sign up on the "Connect Group Bulletin Board" near the church office and plan to come! Meet during the Dessert Bake Off immediately after worship (10:00 am) in the Church Social Hall at the table (near the stage) marked "Connect Movies & Plays Group" to gather with others in the group and discuss plans for future events. All are welcome.

**Good Shepherd Connect Walking Group- Kick Off Event** - Sunday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am. Good Shepherd basement Social Hall. The Connect Walking Group is starting with a kick off planning meeting. Interested? Sign up on the "Connect Group Bulletin Board" near the church office and plan to come! Meet during the Dessert Bake Off immediately after worship (10:00 am) in the Church Social Hall at the table (near the stage) marked "Connect Walking Group" to gather with others in the group and discuss plans for future walks. All are welcome.

**Good Shepherd Connect Dinner Group -Potluck Kick Off Meal** - Sunday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm. Good Shepherd basement Social Hall, Please bring a dish to pass. The Connect Dinner Group is starting with a potluck supper. Interested? Sign up on the "Connect Group Bulletin Board" near the church office and plan to come! All are welcome.

**MN Harvest Campaign** - Help the Wells Area Food Shelf by bringing your extra garden produce to share with those who are not able to have a garden. Also consider additional healthy foods to donate such as dry beans, whole grains and rice. You may drop the items off on Tuesday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>.