



# Welcome to Good Shepherd

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

## Today's Worship

September 18, 2016

*Created by our God, God Knows Me ~ God's Promise to Abraham.* God promised Abraham many descendants, but after years of bearing no children, Abraham begins to doubt. What will it take to restore his faith?

## Welcome & Announcements

**\*Gathering Hymn . . . .** "Build Us Up, Lord" . . . . . ELW 670

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection*

P: God of promises, hear us as we confess our lack of faith and the sin that keeps us from you...

**C: You promise us that you will be our God and we will be your people. Yet we respond by not obeying, trusting or respecting you, God. We see the foolishness of our ways and we are sorry for trusting ourselves rather than you. Forgive us and help us trust your promises. Amen.**

P: We are blessed with a patient and generous God who hears our repentance and is quick to pardon. Receive the forgiveness from God and the renewal of the promise that God will always be our God and we will always be God's people. May we walk in the continuation of this blessing as we give thanks to God.

**C: Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

**C: Gracious God, our faith can be shaky and weak. Show us your steadfastness and restore our hope in you. In Jesus' holy name we pray, Amen.**

## Children's Message

**Choir Anthem . . . . .** "God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens". . . . . Adult Choir

## Psalm 33:12-22 (read responsively)

<sup>12</sup>Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

<sup>13</sup>**The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup>From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth--

<sup>15</sup>**he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.**

<sup>16</sup>A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

<sup>17</sup>**The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup>Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup>**to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.**

<sup>20</sup>Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.

<sup>21</sup>**Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.**

<sup>22</sup>Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

## Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of Genesis chapter 15.

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

## Bible Story . . . .Genesis 15:1-6

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn . . . . .** "It Began in Silence" Chorus, vs, Chorus . . . . . Printed

## Sermon

**Hymn . . . . .** "Old Abram Was Blessed" . . . . . Printed

**Apostle's Creed** . . . . . page 105

## \*Sharing the Peace

## Offering

**Offertory . . . . .** "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord" . . . . . ELW 184

## \*Prayers of the Church

## Words of Institution/The Lord's Prayer

## Distribution

## Communion Blessing

## \*Benediction

**\*Sending Hymn . . . . .** "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" vs 1 & 2 . . . . . ELW 597

## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Presiding & Preaching:** Rev. Mary Iverson

**Scripture Reader:** Julie Forderer

**Communion Helpers:** Julie Forderer, Shirley Lesto

**SS Teacher:** Kim Stevermer

**Birthdays - Sept 18-24** (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

18-Patricia Stenzel

Ruth Schaper

22-Nancy Christensen

Dan Treptow

19-Justin Ramaker

Breanna Wegner

Diane Lutteke

24-Ben Groskreutz

20-Corbin Cummings

21-Melissa Niebuhr

**Old Abram Was Blest**  
LYONS 10.10.11.11  
("O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!")

1. Old Abram was blest and Sarai was, too,  
When God called their names and said, "I choose you!"  
I'll give you descendants like stars up above -  
Too many to count, and a sign of my love."
2. That old couple laughed at what God might do.  
Was what they had heard impossibly true?  
For they had no children to carry their name -  
Yet God promised nations would rise out of them.
3. God promised to them a life that was new:  
A new set of names, a new future, too.  
They faithfully trusted - that husband and wife;  
Soon Sarah and Abraham found a new life.
4. O God, in your love, a whole nation grew;  
You called them to be a blessing for you.  
You sent them, you send us, to be this world's light.  
Your promise still shines like the stars in the night

**September Food Collection** - During the month of September we will collect food donations of macaroni and cheese. A grocery cart will be parked in the sanctuary, collecting your donations, which will all go to the Wells Area Food Shelf. Thank you for your generous August donations.

**Women of the ELCA General Meeting** - Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> following worship. We will meet in the Parlor. Election of officers and nominating committee. All are invited.

**Special Congregational Meeting** - Sunday, September 18, 2016. The Executive Committee of the Church Council unanimously agreed that the August 21, 2016 Special Congregational Meeting motions should be readdressed. There were discrepancies between the count of voting members and the actual votes that were cast. New procedures have been created to formalize the protocol for voting to ensure accuracy. A new Special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 18, 2016 immediately following the 9 a.m. worship service to revisit the two recommendations regarding sanctuary technology upgrades.

- a) The Church Council recommends to proceed with the Technology Upgrades to the Sanctuary, not to exceed \$30,000.00. The Council further recommends that the project is not to commence until all funds have been raised for the project.

**Thinking ahead to next week:** Our Bible Story is about Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37). Consider these questions as you prepare for worship next week: Are there ever times that it is unsafe to be a follower of Jesus? What gifts did God give to Joseph and what gifts does God give to you? How can you use your gifts for good?

**Lutheran Social Service Man-Fair Region Auxiliary Fall Rally** - Tues., Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at North Blue Earth Lutheran Church, Briceyn MN at 1:30 p.m. The program is on Camp Noah Experiences. Ingathering is quilts, Treasure Boxes, cleaning supplies, paper products, Kids Kits and fleece blankets for Camp Noah.

**Wednesday School Kick Off!** - Sept 21 from 7:00 - 7:45 p.m. On Wednesday, September 21 we will host a kick-off for our Wednesday education program. We will have a great dinner from 5-6pm, followed by worship at 6:15pm. At 7:00pm we will have a BOUNCE HOUSE on the north end of the church (in the yard adjacent to the parsonage yard/church garage). There will be hay rides for young and old. We will serve root beer floats outside. Please stop by the Wednesday School rooms and register your kids for both Wednesday School and the PB&J program, as well. You are welcome to fill out the registration form (found on page 12) in advance and drop it off.

**Wednesday School Classes Begin September 28** - Wednesday School Classes begin on Wednesday, September 28 and will be held from 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. Our Wednesday School Class is for students who are in kindergarten through grade 6. Students can be dropped off and picked up at Classroom 1, which is near the church office. Please make sure there is a teacher or an adult in the classroom before you leave your child. Please make sure that you have filled out a registration form for your children (it is found on page 12 in this newsletter). Students (and their families) are encouraged to attend worship from 6:15 – 7:00 p.m. where the students can take part in worship by ringing the bell or collecting offering.

**PB & J "Parents, Babies and Jesus" Class** - A Wednesday School Class for preschoolers and their families. Wednesdays 7:00-7:45 p.m. beginning September 28. Good Shepherd is excited to continue our Wednesday School Class for preschool students – ages 2, 3 & 4. The class is held in the church nursery, on the north end of the education hall. A parent, grandparent or older sibling attends each class with the child, which includes "circle time," a Bible story, music, simple crafts and a snack.

**Youth Event for Grades 9–12** - Wednesday, September 14 @ 7-8pm - Youth in grades 9 through 12 are encouraged to gather for a kick-off event as we hope to organize youth events for High School students. We will gather in the church basement Social Hall for Ice Cream Sundaes and play some games. Most importantly we want to introduce you to events we hope to have planned for Wednesday evenings.

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Orientation** - September 21- An orientation for all confirmation students, along with a parent, is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 21 from 7:15-7:45pm. It will be held in the basement Church Social Hall near the stage. A schedule for the entire year will be handed out and the entire program explained. Before the orientation, stop by and enjoy a root beer float which will be served at 7:00pm in the new driveway near the elevator exit. Remember that dinner is also served from 5:00-6:00 p.m. that evening and kids eat free!

**Confirmation Classes for 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders** - Begins September 28 - The first regular class of confirmation will begin on Wednesday, September 28. It begins with worship at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary followed by class from 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. in the basement Social Hall near the stage. Please remember that the Wednesday Night Supper is served from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. and all youth (grades 8 and below) eat free.

**Opening the Bible for the First Time**-Introducing the Bible to 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders-Mon., Sept. 26-6:30 pm. Pastor Mary will lead an introduction to the Bible for 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders and a parent on Monday, September 25 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Church Social hall near the stage. This class will be an overview of the Bible and prepare the students to receive their first Holy Bible.

**Senior Saints** - Join us as we reminisce about “School Days, School Days, dear old Golden Rule Days!” Please bring your memories about your own school days. Our guest will be Steve Navarro, a member of the USC School Board. Steve will tell us about our new school superintendent, share an update from the USC School Board and tell us what he has learned while being on the School Board. Everyone 55 and older is invited to attend the event at the Broadway Apartments on Wed., Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Following the program we will share the great food provided by the September service group.

**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.

#### Daily Scripture Readings

Sep 19 - Psalm 106:40-48 Acts 4:1-12  
Sep 20 - Psalm 106:40-48 1 Corinthians  
9:19-23  
Sep 21 - Psalm 106:40-48 Luke 20:45—21:4  
Sep 22 - Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 2 Corinthians 8:8-  
15  
Sep 23 - Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 Ephesians 2:1-10  
Sep 24 - Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 Luke 9:43b

#### Dessert Bake Off

Do you make a dessert that is to die for? Good Shepherd members would like to taste your fantastic creation. On Sunday, October 2. We will hold a “Dessert Bake Off” Anyone any age from Good Shepherd can enter their favorite dessert creation in the contest. Those attending Sunday morning coffee will taste the various dessert selections and vote on the ones they feel qualify for the prizes. Please call the church office or Linda Hagen (553-5057) if you have any questions or would like to enter the contest by Sunday, September 25.

Dessert \_\_\_\_\_ Made by \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_\_\_ Children 18 and under

## Connect Groups

Would you like to feel more connected with our Good Shepherd congregation? The Fellowship and Outreach Team is continuing “Connect Groups” this fall that will focus on various interests that people might share in common. Please check one or more that you would be interested in, add your name and drop the sheet off in the offering plate or at the church office by September 21.

Some of the Connect Groups are:

- \_\_\_ 1. Dinner Groups (Cooking meals with a theme or going out to eat together)
- \_\_\_ 2. Card or Game Playing Groups.
- \_\_\_ 3. “500” Card Playing Group
- \_\_\_ 4. Cooking or Recipe Groups
- \_\_\_ 5. Bible Study Groups (please add the days and times of day that work best for you)
- \_\_\_ 6. Book Study Groups
- \_\_\_ 7. Attending Movies or Plays
- \_\_\_ 8. Monthly Coffee Get Togethers on a weekday morning.
- \_\_\_ 9. Other: (add your ideas for other groups)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEDNESDAY/SUNDAY SCHOOL & PB&J REGISTRATION FORM**

2016-2017 Family Information Form for Wednesday/Sunday

Last Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all children ages 1 – grade 12 (by Sept. 2016)

First Name _____
Middle Name _____
Birth Date _____
Baptism Date _____
Grade in 16-17 _____

First Name _____
Middle Name _____
Birth Date _____
Baptism Date _____
Grade in 16-17 _____

First Name _____
Middle Name _____
Birth Date _____
Baptism Date _____
Grade in 16-17 _____

First Name _____
Middle Name _____
Birth Date _____
Baptism Date _____
Grade in 16-17 _____

**PARENT INFORMATION**

Father's Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____
E-mail _____
Mother's Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____
E-mail _____

Food Allergies \_\_\_\_\_ Other Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

\* This year we are offering a class for children ages 2-4. See the Voice for more information on PB&J Class.

\*\*\*\*Permission to post pictures and videos of your child on Good Shepherd's web site and bulletin boards. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\*\*\*\*

Parent (Guardian Signature)