



# Welcome to Good Shepherd

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

August 20, 2017

Today's Worship

*Does it Really Say that in the Bible? Love the Sinner but Hate the Sin ...* This month we focus on some ideas that Christians embrace that may not be entirely true. Some of the ideas may have a ring of truth or may even be partially supported by Scripture. When examined closely, though, they are often "half-truth" at best. At worst, they can hurt people or be a stumbling block. Are we actually commanded to do anything beyond love? Where did Christians get the idea that God wants us to judge others?

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

Hymn . . . . "All Are Welcome" . . . . . ELW 641

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: We gather to worship in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins and rejoice in the goodness of God, who forgives our sins...

*Pause for silence and reflection*

P: Holy Redeemer, Hear us as we confess our sins...

C: Lord, we know that you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Yet, we often run from your love and turn away from your goodness. Forgive us and teach us to follow your path and open our eyes to see your presence in our lives.

P: The Lord God, with compassion and kindness, forgives us all our sins and calls us to embrace God's goodness in our lives. Receive God's grace and share that grace in your lives, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

C: Gracious God, we give you thanks that you came not to show judgement on sinners but to offer forgiveness to us; not to point out sin but to show the way to truth and life. Help us be the kind of followers who welcome people and love them in your name. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Children's Message

## Martin Luther Moment

Psalm 139:1-14 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from faraway.

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night',

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

<sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

## \*Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of Matthew chapter 7.

C: Praise to you, O Lord

Bible Story . . . . Matthew 7:1-5

<sup>1</sup>Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. <sup>3</sup>Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your neighbor, "Let me take the speck out of your eye", while the log is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

Song . . . . "We Are Called" . . . . . ELW 720

The Apostles' Creed . . . . . page 105

## Sharing of the Peace

## Offering/Loose Change Offering

Offertory Response . . . . "Let us Talents and Tongues Employ" . . . . . ELW 674

## Prayers of the Church

## The Lord's Prayer

## Benediction

Sending Song . . . . "This Little Light of Mine" . . . . . ELW 677

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Church Phone: 507-553-3513

Web site: <http://www.goodshepherdwells.org> E-mail: [shepherd@bevcomm.net](mailto:shepherd@bevcomm.net)

Broadcast Cable Bevcomm TV Channel 7 Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Welcome to Worship at Good Shepherd! It is our mission to Grow, Serve, Learn, Care and Worship. It is our prayer and our hope that you will sense the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of worship.

Preaching: Laurie Stoeger, Lay Preacher

Pianist/Organist: Al Tonn

Scripture Reader: Coni Olson

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

20-Zachary Niebuhr	Andrew Heggen	22-Kurt Niebuhr	24-Danny Hummer
Tatum Stangler	Gary Kauffmann	Sara Salisbury	25-Sydney Niebuhr
21-Jeff Erickson	Tom Schroeder	23-Mark Seedorf	26-Joanne Jespersen

**Thanks to Laurie Stoeger** for preaching today. Pastor Mary is at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mankato, where she had previously served as a pastor for nearly seven years (1996-1997 and 2000-2005). Bethlehem Lutheran is celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Pastor Mary is glad to be able to preach there and join them in celebration. Pastor Mary will return to the office tomorrow and she will not be away on a Sunday for many months to come!

**A Gift** has been received towards the Wells Area Food Shelf from Barb Ziegler and the late Elmer Ziegler in honor of their wedding anniversary which was Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**August Food Collection** - During the month of August we will collect food donations of Asian foods: noodles, soy sauce, bean sprouts, water chestnuts, or fortune cookies. A grocery cart is parked in the sanctuary, collecting your donations, which will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf. Thank you for your generous donations in July of Salad Dressing, Mustard, Barbeque Sauce or Chili Sauce.

**Produce Donations Accepted for the Wells Area Food Shelf** - As you collect your produce from your garden, remember that you are invited share some of the produce with the Wells Area Food Shelf. Your donations can be dropped off at the Good Shepherd Church offices during daily office hours. Mondays and Tuesdays are best days to drop off the produce. Thanks for your donations of healthy food for our hungry neighbors.

**Adopt a Youth Gathering Participant** - The youth and adult leaders who are attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas are up for adoption! If you or your family applies to adopt one of the Youth Gathering participants, you will get a certificate identifying your adoptee and will meet with them for a fun event before they depart for their June, 2018 trip. In addition, you will receive a postcard from them during their trip and then join them for another fun event after the Youth Gathering to hear all about the trip from them. Adoption applications are available below, in the July Newsletter or in the church office. Adoption fees are \$30 payable to Good Shepherd and the full amount goes toward Youth Gathering costs. Thank you for your ongoing support of youth programs at Good Shepherd!

-----  
**Application to Adopt a 2018 Youth Gathering Participant**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your mailing address (so we can send you a postcard!): \_\_\_\_\_

Cost to adopt one participant:\$30 (payable to Good Shepherd – please include with application)  
*Please leave application in the church office or offering plate.*

**Wellington Estates Fire Assistance** - Good Shepherd is assisting five of the families who were displaced because of the August 5 fire. (The other families are divided among other churches in Wells who will be assisting them.) As needs arise, we will help the families move into new housing, locate donated furnishings and make their new residences a home. If you have any furniture or household goods to donate, please call Andrea at the Good Shepherd office (553-3513) who is creating a list of possible donations. Financial donations are being accepted at Wells Federal Bank. If you would like to be one who offers direct assistance to the families our church is helping, please let the church office know.

**Small children are always welcome at worship.** If they become restless, please know that one option is the nursery that is a part of our sanctuary (on the left side of the sanctuary, in the alcove just in front of the side door). There are baby and toddler toys and a rocking chair for a parent, so you can continue to worship but have a safe place for your little one to move around.

**Hearing devices** are available from the ushers. **Thank you** for silencing your cell phone.

**“Busy Bags” are available for small children** to use during worship. An usher can point them out to you.