



Welcome to Good Shepherd

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

Today's Worship

May 21, 2017

The Mighty Acts of God - Will Any God Do? As Acts unfolds, excitement builds as the story of Jesus spread beyond the Middle East. First it spread across the "Jewish nation" and by the time we read in Acts 17, people in the "Gentile world" are hearing about Jesus. Paul preached across the Roman Empire and noticed that the cities were filled with numerous statues dedicated to many various gods and goddesses. It changed the way that Paul preached. This story asks us: what are the various gods in your life and what do you worship, day to day?

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn "Build Us Up, Lord" ELW 670

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Restoration and truth telling are companions in life. Let us tell the truth before God and one another, which leads us to restored relationships.

Silence for reflection

P: Lord of Life,

C: How could you not have frustration with us? So often we live as if we don't know you; our hearts get hardened, our souls grow weak. Forgive our stubbornness and independent living.

P: God is faithful and compassionate. Our names are forever written on God's heart and are never forgotten. I declare to you, in the name of Christ, that you are freely love, freely forgiven.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

C: Almighty God, your ways are higher and better than ours. With great joy we receive the gift of salvation which is ours not because of our own efforts but because of the saving work of Christ. Fill us with gratitude for the gift of salvation and point our hearts toward you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Children's Message

Psalm 95:1-6 (read responsively)

¹O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

*Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of Acts chapter 17.

C: Praise to you, O Lord

Bible Story Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babblers want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new. ²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him--though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." ³²When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." ³³At that point Paul left them. ³⁴But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Song "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" ELW 674

The Apostles' Creed. page 105

Sharing of the Peace

Offering/Loose Change Offering

Offertory Response "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" ELW 184

Prayers of the Church

Words of Institution/The Lord's Prayer

Distribution

Communion Blessing

Benediction

Sending Song "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" ELW 860

Dismissal

P: Go in peace.

C: Serve the Lord.

Presiding & Preaching: Rev. Mary Iverson **Scripture Reader:** Amy Anderson

Communion Helpers: Ron & Sandi Hartman, Lynne Hansen

Our support of the Ministry God has given us last week:

Current-\$3,409.00 Missionary-\$310.00 Dedicated-\$250.50 5/10-47 5/14-106

Birthdays - May 21-27 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

21-Lenny Diekmann	Ila Teskey	Mary Van Horn	Gary Hagen
22-Walker Linde	24-Mike Lesto	25-Marah Niebuhr	Dan Hart
Julie Treptow	Andrea Treptow	26-Rita Bathke	27-Bea Hensche
23-Olivia Niebuhr			

May Food Collection - During the month of May we will collect food donations of vegetable oil, baking soda, baking powder, chocolate chips, etc. 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 April of Pizza Mix in a Box.

Open House 90th Birthday Party for Aldoris Strand. Sun., May 21st at 1:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd. All are invited. Your presence is your gift.

Senior Graduate Recognition - High School graduates will be honored and blessed during worship on Wed., May 24 at 6:15pm. Good Shepherd wants to share in this milestone celebration with you and your family. In addition, High School graduates, their parents and siblings are invited to the Wednesday Supper which is served from 5-6 pm, prior to worship. The menu includes Meatloaf and Potatoes and will also include a cake in honor of the graduates. In addition, USC students are invited to attend the baccalaureate service which will be held on Wed., May 31 at 7:00pm at the USC auditorium. Please watch for a letter in the mail with all the details.

Vacation Bible School supply tree is full of goodies that you may choose from to help defray the cost of some of the items needed this year for Vacation Bible School. The tree is located in memorial hall by the church office.

In Honor of Mother's Day Barb Ziegler has given a gift to the Wells Area Food Shelf in memory of her mother, Bernice Holstad.

Help is needed to place a poppy on a Veteran's grave. Meet at the west side of the cemetery on Fri., May 26th at 3:30 p.m. (rain date Sat., May 27th at 10:00 a.m.) Questions call Marlene Kauffmann at 553-3539.

Flowers in front of Pulpit are from the funeral of Pam Wetzell.



JUNE 5th – 7th
9:00 a.m – 11:30 a.m.

CREW MEMBERS NEEDED!

Youth who have completed 6th grade and older are invited to *sign up to help* with VBS 2017!

Sign up sheet is on the office door.

FUN FACTORY KIDS NEEDED!

Youth 4 yrs. through completion of 5th grade are invited to *attend* VBS 2017!!

Registration forms available by the office door.