



Welcome to Good Shepherd

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

January 28, 2018

Today's Worship

Invitation to Abundant Life - New Life in the Spirit A Jewish leader named Nicodemus comes to Jesus under the cover of night to ask Jesus some questions that were stirring his soul. Why at night? Nicodemus had to come when his colleagues wouldn't see him with Jesus and criticize him. In the end, Nicodemus ends up getting quite an education from Jesus.

Prelude. Seeking Him

Welcome

***Gathering** "Drawn to the Light". ELW 593

Confession and Forgiveness:

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

C: Amen.

P: God comes to the help of the people, turning us from sin to live for God. God gifts us with power through the Holy Spirit to confess our sins, to receive forgiveness and to grow into faithful servants. Let us confess our sins ...

Pause for silence and reflection

P: Gracious Lord God,

C: Forgive us for continually missing the mark. We look for your beauty and grandeur, God, but miss the humble and quiet ways that you choose to make yourself known to us. We strive for status and success, and fail to see the ways you use us in failure or weakness. We wish we were more popular, forgetting that you call us to love the unlovable and reach out to the forgotten, despised and voiceless people. Forgive us and restore us again to your grace.

P: The Lord our God is quick to forgive and eager to grant second and third chances. Take comfort that God is merciful, and never failing in compassion. You are forgiven. Proclaim it, rejoice in it, and live it, for the sake of Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

Kyrie. page 184

Prayer of the Day

C: Holy God, you give us new life when we are born of water and the Spirit. Continue to stir your Holy Spirit within us and shed light into all corners of our lives, so we may bring our whole selves to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Children's Message

Psalm 139:13-18 (read responsively)

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

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

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸**I try to count them--they are more than the sand; I come to the end--I am still with you.**

Announcement of Scripture Reading:

P: A reading from the book of John chapter 3.

C: Praise to you, O Lord.

Bible Story . . . John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?¹¹ Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn "Borning Cry!". ELW 732

The Apostles' Creed. page 105

*Sharing the Peace

Offering. Seeking Him

Offertory Response. "Have You Thanked the Lord?". ELW 829

Prayers of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

***Sending Song** "How Great Thou Art" ELW 856

*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

Broadcast Cable Bevcomm TV Channel 7 Tuesday at 10:15 am & Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Presiding & Preaching: Rev. Mary Iverson

Pianist: Mike Schrader

Scripture Reader: Brad Heggen

SS Teacher - Lana Wegner

Birthdays -Jan 28-3 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

28-Doug Becher	Dawn Lutteke	Arianne Schaper	Sharon Roessler
Daniel Elmer	31-Caroline Cihlar	1-Jean Carlson	3-Sheila Malwitz
29-Harper Stern	Mary Iverson	Sandra Coats	Karen Skellenger
30-Jane Ewert	Mary Jane Linde	2-Brandon Roessler	

January Food Collection - During the month of January we will collect food donations of chocolate, yellow, white or spice cake mixes (please no Jiffy cake mixes). A grocery cart is parked in the sanctuary, collecting your donations, which will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf.

Our Prayers are with those who are grieving:

Nancy and Russ Elmer and their family who grieve the death of Nancy's father, Joseph Aubin, who died on Jan. 18. His funeral was held on Jan. 25 in Virginia, MN.

Brenda and Dave Sauer and their family who grieve the death of Brenda's father, Ronald Paulson, of Anoka. His funeral was held on Jan. 26 in Cedar, MN.

The family and friends of Millie Halvorson, whose funeral was held at Good Shepherd on Jan. 26.

The family and friends of Betty Korman, whose funeral was held at Good Shepherd on Jan 19.

In memory of Jan Helfritz memorials have been received towards the Adult Choir Fund and Sanctuary Technology Fund.