

**The Voice**  
**February 2018**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Wells**  
**Worshipping: Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm & Sunday at 9:00 am**

## The Season of Lent



### *God's Persistent Love"*

*While it is often called The Parable of the Prodigal Son, more accurately it is the story of God's persistent love for us. This year we will have dramatic presentations that spotlight the familiar story of a wayward son, a jealous brother and the extravagant love that God has for us.*

Lenten Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday Worship - February 14 6:15pm

Lenten Wednesday Worship – February 21 – March 21 6:15pm

Holden Evening Prayer & Drama

Delicious meals are served each Wednesday evening

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Church basement Social Hall

Meal Price: \$4 ~ youth & children eat free

### **Go Team, Go!**

There is a cartoon that has been going around on Facebook. Perhaps you have seen it yourself. In the cartoon, two people are having a conversation. The one says, "You should get as excited about church as you do a football game." The other person answers, "Well, I tried that once and they had to ask me to leave the church. After the sermon, I dumped a cooler of Gatorade on the pastor!"



The cartoon is funny and I appreciate the humor. But yet, I disagree with it on many levels. First, I don't want to wear a cooler of Gatorade! More than that, I don't think the cartoon creator understands the essence of sermons.

The Gatorade dump at the end of a football game is a great way to celebrate a championship. No pastor *ever* wins the championship with a sermon.

I love preaching and I love writing sermons. But I don't preach to make good points. I don't work hard at writing my sermons for the sake of making sermons. I create sermons with the hope that something happens to the listeners and maybe the preacher, too. I preach sermons in the hope that somehow, when the Holy Spirit works through the Word of God proclaimed, someone's heart is changed.

If there is a "Super Bowl" to be won for the pastor, it is a transformed heart. If there is a victory, it is that we leave worship equipped to face the world CHANGED...equipped to face the struggles of life, transformed with love and grace. Whenever I get into the pulpit to preach a sermon, I am like a coach in the locker room. Worship is practice. Life is the game, where it all gets real.

No one dumps Gatorade on the coach after a really good halftime speech in the locker room! If you want to dump a cooler of something on me, do it after someone has seen the love of Christ shine through you. Do it after you welcome a stranger, forgive someone who has hurt you, or have given someone a meal when they were hungry. Do it when you embrace Jesus, not just as someone you try to act like, but someone who is a deeply personal part of your life.

And when it comes down to it, I really don't think, that as a pastor, I am like a coach. The pastor is just another teammate who is trying to figure out life, just like you. Whether you worship on Wednesday or Sunday, let's practice. Let's practice with the same passion that the Vikings had this past season. Let's practice forgiveness with the same persistence. Let's practice generosity with the same intensity. Let's practice justice for all kinds of people with the same determination. Let's practice love with the same endurance. Then we can leave worship, not dripping with Gatorade but full of the Holy Spirit and ready to change the world. *See you in worship (but leave the Gatorade at home), Pastor Mary*

## Service Group 6

Will be serving in the month of **March**. Service Group will sign up for jobs on Wednesday and Sunday, February 7 & 11, 2018. Members are encouraged to sign up for several things. Please note that though children are not mentioned by name, they are an important part of the service groups. All members of the Service Group are encouraged to be in prayer for their church and its pastor.

<b>Lynne &amp; Tom Hansen</b>	Kim Kastens	Kathryn Raimann
Jeffrey & Linda Battey	Bonnie Knutson	James & Jackie Ramaker
Karen Brandenburg	Joel & Megan Kruger	Arnold & Marlene Schrader
Todd & Jolene Carlson	Deb Larson	Derek Schroeder
Lyle Doerr, Jr	Steven & Mary Jane Linde	Jessica Schroeder
Lyle Doerr, Sr	Rick & Megan Meyer	Keith & Lacy Schroeder
Gale Gottberg	Dennis & Joan Morgan	Kim Stevermer
Ruben & Ellen Groskreutz	Michael Niebuhr	Shelley Tibodeau
Elaine Grunzke	Ronald Niebuhr	Jon & Allisha Trytten
William & Lucy Harnack	Shaun & Lisa Olson	Pamela & Rollie Warmka
Claire & Kim Johnson	Linda L. Possin	



Join us on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. In Linda's absence, Pastor Mary will lead the events. We will welcome a special guest, Wells Police Officer Eric Neubauer, who will speak about common scams and general safety tips. It will be a good opportunity to also learn about law enforcement in Wells and what it is like to be a police officer today. Come with your questions! We will also play some games together and a tasty meal that will be provided by the February service group.

## January Ministerial Acts:

Baptism - Jan. 7 Phillip Lee Gutierrez

In Christian Sympathy - Janice Helfritz, who died on Dec. 30, 2017

Betty Korman, who died on Jan. 16, 2018

Millie Halvorson, who died on Jan. 22, 2018



## February Food Collection

During the month of February we will collect food donations of paper products (toilet paper, paper towels). A grocery cart is parked in the sanctuary, collecting your donations, which will go to the Wells Area Food Shelf.

## Wednesday Nights at Good Shepherd

### Wednesday Night Supper

**Served 5:00–6:00 p.m.**

KIDS EAT FREE every week! *Kids who are in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and under eat free!*

Adults: \$4.00.

Menus for February:

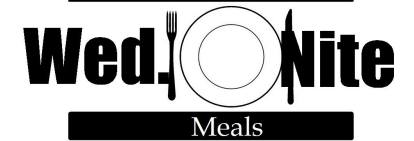
7 - Spaghetti and Meatballs

14 - Chicken Breast, Baby Potatoes, Corn, Broccoli

21 - Scalloped Potatoes and Ham

28 - Lasagna

*(Available each week for children: mac & cheese, hot dogs/chips, or PBJ sandwich)*



### Wednesday Night Worship

**6:15–6:55 p.m.**

Whether you are busy on the weekend or prefer a more casual worship setting, please remember that this alternative worship service takes place each week. Music is led by piano and vocal and the sermon each Wednesday is the same as the following Sunday.

### Wednesday School

**7:00–7:45 p.m.**

Students should be dropped off or picked up in the class near the church offices. Make sure that a teacher is in the classroom before your children are left in the room. Students are encouraged to worship with their families before the class from 6:15– 6:55 p.m.

## **PB & J Class**

*Wednesdays 7:00-7:45 p.m. ~ Basement Classroom near Parlor*

This is Wednesday School class for preschoolers who are 2 or 3 years old and a parent. Check it out! There will be no class Feb. 21 or Feb. 28.

## **February Confirmation Schedule**

Feb 7 Class 7:00-7:45pm

Feb 14 7:00-7:45pm *Deliver Valentine treats to Wells homebound members~  
Meet in the basement Social Hall*

Feb 21 Class 7:00-7:45

Feb 28 Class 7:00-7:45pm

\*\* All confirmation students are required to worship during Lent Wed., Feb 14-March 21 \*\*

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Mentors**

8<sup>th</sup> graders will meet the church member that they have chosen to be their mentor starting on Wednesday, Feb. 14. 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their mentors will worship together for Ash Wednesday worship on Feb. 14 at 6:15 p.m. Immediately following the Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday worship there will be a short gathering with mentors and students in the Good Shepherd chapel. Thank you to the following mentors: Emily Allard, Adam Ratjar, Ryan Crabtree, Kathy Ehlert, Russ Elmer, Nancy Elmer, Brad Heggen, Darin Magnuson, Dynette Niebuhr, Ruth Schaper, Brian Schrader, Amy Stenzel and Allisha Trytten.

## **First Communion**

5<sup>th</sup> grade students and a parent will gather on four Wednesday evenings to prepare to receive their First Holy Communion. Pastor Mary will lead the preparation classes and it will include the painting of cups and the baking of bread that will be used for First Communion. The group will gather in the basement Church Social Hall. Please bring your Bible.

### ***First Holy Communion Preparation Classes***

Weds, Feb. 21 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Weds, Feb. 28 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Weds, March 7 7:00-7:30 p.m.

### ***First Holy Communion***

Maundy Thursday Worship, March 29, 7:00 p.m.

## **Youth Gathering Meeting**

Those attending the ELCA Youth Gathering will meet on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. in the basement Parlor, behind the kitchen. We will discuss details for the Youth Gathering and continue preparations.

## **Weather Cancellations**

### Midweek Cancellation Policy

If the United South Central School District is cancelled or dismisses early because of weather conditions, there will be NO evening activities/worship. Cancellations will be posted on the church website ([goodshepherdwells.org](http://goodshepherdwells.org)), the church facebook page and announced on both KBEW (1560 AM) and KJLY (104.5 FM).



## **Blue Earth River Conference Annual Assembly**

The area congregations of the SE Minnesota Synod of the ELCA will gather together on Sunday, February 11 at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran, Albert Lea. Pastor Mary is attending and Good Shepherd is encouraged to bring delegates from the congregation as well.

## **Follow Up of the Tanzania Book Initiative**

In October, 2016, Mankato West High School student James Dahlvang spoke at Good Shepherd about a project he was leading to put text books and lab equipment in science classrooms in a small secondary school in Iambi, run by the Lutheran Church of the central diocese of Tanzania. We supported his efforts with a gift of \$2,026. A group from Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Mankato was in Iambi, Tanzania in January, 2018 and visited the classrooms which received the textbooks and lab equipment. They were pleased to find that the small school is now number 1 in the district with 20 University level scholars. (The next highest school has only 7.) This great increase is largely due to the textbooks and science equipment that the students now have available. God's Work. Our Hands.

## February Birthdays

1-Jean Carlson Sandra Coats	12-Marlene Lindely Elizabeth Stern Kent Stern	22-Lisa Loegering Harold Niebuhr Sara Theede
2-Brandon Roessler Sharon Roessler	Deakon Wegner	23-Gordon Treptow
3-Sheila Malwitz Karen Skellenger	13-Keith Miller Hudson Warmka	24-Chad Groskreutz Keven Buendorf
4-Linda Hagen	Brantley Winstead	Jeff Ovrebo
7-Michelle Becher Brian Ehlert	16-Anna Jo Delaittre Andrea Neubauer	25-Lori Fette Nolan Magnuson
8-Barb Stensrud	17-Keith Schroeder	Mary Nehring
9-Collin Foley Lynda Korman	18-Austin Niebuhr	26-Gordon Hansen Coni Olson
10-Ron Hartman Marcus Weyhrauch	19-Rick Mandler	27-Robert Eckwright III Jaycie Routh
11-Taylor Ovrebo	20-Steve Linde Hadley Routh	28-Kaylee Larson Kayla Nowak
	21-Sharon Hass Stephanie Miller Matt Schaper	



Women of the ELCA 

**Multiple Meanings:  
Learning from other interpretations**  
Session 1: Prepare the Way of the Lord

### Joy Circle

Feb. 1, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the Parlor  
**Bible Study Leader:** Group Study  
**Hostess:** Please bring a sack lunch

### Love Circle

Feb. 27, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

## Fundraising for Chaperones

We are grateful to have two wonderful chaperones all set to accompany our 9 youth. Nicole Swanson and Taylor Allis will be the chaperones with Pastor Mary serving as the alternate. We are thankful that are able to devote time to the youth of Good Shepherd; to travel with our kids down to Houston and then accompany them each day as they learn and serve and worship together. Not only that, these chaperones have been faithfully working with the youth to help with their fundraising efforts. While many of the youth are nearly done meeting their fundraising goals, there is still a considerable amount of money that needs to be raised for the chaperone expenses. A total of \$ 2,800 needs to be raised (\$1,400 per chaperone) and we have already raised \$ 1,823.74. That means that we still need to raise \$ 976.26 for the chaperones. A “thermometer” will be put on the bulletin near the church office to measure the money we raise for the chaperones.

The congregation is invited to donate toward the chaperone account. Donations may be left at the church office or placed in the offering plate with “chaperones” listed in the memo line.

When we reach our goal and have all the money raised for Adult Leaders, the youth and chaperones will all gather to provide a Texas-themed serenade at worship, singing “Deep in the Heart of Texas” to the congregation.

Thank you so much for your generous support of the group going to Texas. And thank you, now, for helping with the registration and transportation money for our chaperones!

**Pastor:** Mary Iverson

C-507-420-6126

email-maryiverson@hotmail.com

**Administrative Secretary:** Andrea Groskreutz

**Treasurer:** Ardene Breitkreutz

**Organists:** Jean Carlson

**Custodian:** Kent Stern

**Office Hours:** M-T 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

F-8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed Saturday

**Phone:** 507-553-3513

**Fax:** 507-553-6995

shepherd@bevcomm.net

www.goodshepherdwells.org

www.facebook.com/goodshepherdwells

(Please submit articles and pictures of events happening in the Church to the church office to be posted on the web site.)

Broadcast Cable Bevcomm TV Channel 7

at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday & 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

## Ushers for February 2018

9:00 a.m. Daryl & Nancy Kruger,  
Joanne Korman, Chris Lutteke

## Bulletin & Voice Dates to Know:

Bulletin Articles are due Thursday *before 8:30 a.m.*

Voice Articles for March 2018 are Due Feb. 16.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
291 1<sup>st</sup> ST SW  
Wells, MN 56097

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Wells, MN  
56097  
Permit No. 7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Voice  
February 2018  
Vol. 53 No. 2