

**The Voice**  
**January 2018**

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

**Annual Congregation Meeting**

**January 28, 2018**

**Following the 9:00 a.m.**

**Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

*Elections*

*Reports*

*2018 Budget*



**Annual Reports**

*will be available for the Congregation on January 19, 2018. Forums to discuss the report will be held on Sun., Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> and Wed., Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> following the worship. A reminder to all ministry teams and organizations a 2017 report of your activities is due to the church office on or before Jan. 12, 2018.*

**God's Work. Our Hands.**

Six months ago Jessica and Derek Simmons were on vacation in Panama City Beach in Florida. It was a hot day – and a Saturday – so there were lots of people at the beach cooling themselves in the ocean. The couple noticed flashing lights on the boardwalk and the police running toward the water. The couple rushed toward the water and could see 10 heads bobbing in the water about a football field length into the ocean, waving and crying desperately for help. Later they would find out that the people included six members of a family and four others who were swimming nearby. All 10 of them were swept out by the powerful and mysterious rip tide that churns just below the surface of the water.

As soon as Jessica Simmons saw them struggling, she was determined that those people were not going to drown that day. Jessica heard the police say that they wanted to wait for a rescue boat to arrive and knew that she was a strong swimmer. She shouted out to the gathering crowd, “Let’s form a human chain!”

The human chain started forming and soon there were more than 80 people linked together. Jessica Simmons and her husband swam past the chain to get to the end, trying to reach the exhausted swimmers. They started with the children, passing them back along the human chain all the way to the beach. By the time Jessica Simmons reached their mother, the drowning woman was so exhausted that she was blacking out while sinking below the surface of water. Next Simmons reached for the children’s grandmother, who was having a heart attack by that time and was unconscious. Everyone worked together to hold the heads of the swimmers above water while they shuffled their bodies down the human chain.

An hour after they started, all 10 of the swimmers were rescued. The entire beach broke out in applause when the rescuers returned to shore. The rescued family later said, “It was the grace of God and the good will of people that saved us that day. It reminded me that there are good people in this world.”

Jessica Simmons herself was equally inspired by the whole rescue operation. She said it was overwhelming to see people of different races, both men and women, young and old, working together to help total strangers.

So after, when a tragedy strikes, we church going people are quick to say, “I’ll pray for you.” But how often do we work to be the answer to someone’s prayers? Prayer is wonderful and powerful. Yet I certainly believe that God calls us to do more than pray, when we know that someone is hurting. We are called to be the hands and feet of God here on earth. With that in mind, the ELCA has adopted the slogan “God’s Work. Our Hands.” That slogan summarizes our challenge to do the good work, to be the answer to the prayers of others.

This past July, Jessica Simmons was determined that there would be no people drowning at the beach that day. What can our determination change around us? Can we be determined that our community will have no hungry children? Can we be determined that our grieving church members will not grieve alone or that our homebound members will feel a connection to our church?

Whose prayers can you answer today, as God works through you?  
*See you at worship, Pastor Mary*



## Service Group 5

Will be serving in the month of **February**. Service Group will sign up for jobs on Wednesday and Sunday, January 10 & 14, 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>Julie &amp; Carl Forderer</b>	Mildred Halvorson	Linda M. Possin
Robert & Linda Buendorf	Rich & Lori Hueper	Reginald & Cindy Rebelein
Nick Buendorf	Al Korman	Brandon Rucker
Karen Carlson	Matt & Rachael Korman	Lester & Yvonne Salisbury
Nathaniel & Tessa Cummings	Marlene Lindely	Dennis & Crystal Sell
Gerald & Jane Ewert	Darin & Stacy Magnuson	Nathan Stern
David & Lisa Foley	Deanne Mershon	David & Chris Tatge
Barb Fuchs	Kristina Neubauer	Matt & Sara Theede
Mark & Heather Goldman	Keith & Darcy Niebuhr	Diane Walters
Chad Groskreutz	Jeff & Mary Ovrebo	Tracy Warmka
Roger & Jeanette Groskreutz	JoAnn & Eldo Ovrebo	Danny & Judy Werner
		Doris Wood



Join us on Wednesday, January 17 at 11:00 a.m. for a day of fun where we will participate in various game activities. There will be prizes and food to share in the lunch provided by the January service group.

## December Ministerial Acts:

Baptism - 12/3 Dexter James Stern, son of Chris Stern & Kaylee Bramstedt  
12/10 Everly Jean Christensen, daughter of Loren Christensen & Tanya Carlson



## 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.

## 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 January:

3 - Burger Night

10 - Ravioli

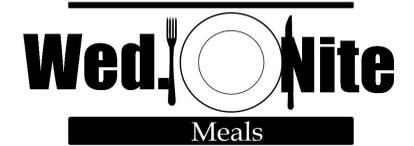
17 - Sloppy Joes

24 - To Be Determined\*

31 - To Be Determined\*

*(\*Information about these menus will be posted in the bulletin, on the website and Facebook)*

*(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. ~ Nursery**

This is Wednesday School class for preschoolers who are 2 or 3 years old and a parent. Check it out!

### Confirmation Class

**Wednesdays 7:00-7:45 p.m. ~ Church Social Hall**

Confirmation Classes have begun for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Pastor Mary is leading the class and the focus this year is an overview of both the Old and New Testament.

## Farewell to Wednesday Cook, Suzanne

Farewell and God's Blessings to our Wednesday Supper Cook, Suzanne Comeau. Suzanne has resigned so she can take a full-time job elsewhere. We are very sad to accept her resignation because she is much-loved and we have appreciated her fabulous meals and friendly personality! Suzanne's last Wednesday will be on January 10, 2018. Good Shepherd will provide a special dessert that evening in her honor and ask diners to sign a farewell card on both January 3 and 10 that we can present to Suzanne.



Thank  
You!

## Thank You, Good Shepherd

Thank you for the Christmas cards and gifts given to our family during the holiday season. I had a wonderful Christmas celebration. My parents spent Christmas Day with us and Sam and Rachel were both home from college. Sam graduated from the University of Minnesota at the end of December with a degree in both physics and astrophysics and now begins the search for a job. We are continually blessed to be a part of the Good Shepherd family!

*Happy New Year, Pastor Mary Iverson, Samuel & Rachel*

## January Youth Events

**Grades Kindergarten – 3 Youth Event** - Fun, Fun, Fun at the Church, Sunday, January 7, 2018 11am – noon. Gather together in the Good Shepherd Kitchenette (down the hall from the church offices) where we will learn more about the 3 Wise Men and make a cool craft. We will also play some fun games together and have a small snack. The cost is free but we do ask you to sign up on the church office door by Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

**Grades 4-7 Youth Event** - Ultimate Game Night, Saturday, January 13, 2018 6pm – 9pm. Meet in the Good Shepherd basement Social Hall for a great evening of new games (Human Clue) and old favorites (Sardines). There is no cost for this event and you are welcome to bring a friend. The deadline to sign up on the church office door is Wednesday, January 10. Please come with a full stomach as a snack but not a meal is being served.

**Grades 8-12 Youth Event** - Saturday, January 6, 2018 6pm – 10pm. Meet in the Good Shepherd basement Social Hall for a great evening of new games (Human Clue) and old favorites (Sardines and Race to 100). There is no cost for this event and you are welcome to bring a friend. A pizza dinner will be served. The deadline to sign up on the church office door is Wednesday, January 3.

## Churchwide Assembly

On August 5-10, 2019, The ELCA will hold its next Churchwide Assembly. Members from all over the country will gather in Milwaukee, WI to do the work of the church! Our Blue Earth River Conference is eligible to send 4 voting members to this gathering (2 clergy and 2 lay, 1 male and 1 female in each category). We will nominate these 4 voting members at our Conference Assembly on February 11, 2018. Might God be calling you to be a voting member? If you are interested in being one of these voting members, please talk to your pastor!

## Blue Earth River Conference

Blue Earth River Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Albert Lea. The meeting will commence at 2:00 p.m., with registration beginning at 1:30 p.m.

## January Birthdays

- |                        |                       |                    |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1-Gavin Gonsalez       | Amy Schroeder         | 21-Hunter Malwitz  |
| Dorine Miller          | Steve Schultz         | 22-Tim Stenzel     |
| 2-Linda Niebuhr        | 10-Walter Stenzel     | Kathryn Weyhrauch  |
| Marilyn Rauenhorst     | 11-Danielle Johannsen | 23-Kathleen Ehlert |
| 4-Dylan Bonsack        | Chad Malwitz          | Lizzy Leland       |
| Velma Brandt           | Shelley Tibodeau      | 24-Jim Degner      |
| Joshua Hansen          | 12-Erin Eckwright     | 25-Chayce Lutteke  |
| Dave Sauer             | Dave Jacobson         | 27-Judy Harpestad  |
| Frances Solberg        | Matt Theede           | 28-Doug Becher     |
| 5-Robert Buendorf      | 13-Kynslee Alger      | Daniel Elmer       |
| Ray Harris             | Dennis Morgan         | 29-Harper Stern    |
| Hayden Niebuhr         | 14-Joe Bonsack        | 30-Jane Ewert      |
| Barb Sletten           | 16-Landan Magnuson    | Dawn Lutteke       |
| 6-Samantha Rollenhagen | Arlyss Schroeder      | 31-Caroline Cihlar |
| Mike Swanson           | 18-Erinn Hotzler      | Mary Iverson       |
| 7-Pam Melby            | Mike Rebelein         | Mary Jane Linde    |
| 8-Marvel Huper         | 20-Ruth Heggen        | Arianne Schaper    |



## ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

### 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!

### Those Attending

We have nine students registered to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering. Those attending are: Jacob Billings, Mikenna Erickson, Hope Garcia, Andrew Heggen, Kayla Nowak, Halle Schrader, Dianna Soto, Allison Swanson and Riley Willner. The chaperones are Taylor Allis and Nicole Swanson and Pastor Mary is the alternate.

### Youth Gathering Meeting

Those attending the ELCA Youth Gathering will meet on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. in the basement Parlor, behind the kitchen. We will enjoy donuts and juice and begin discussing details for the Youth Gathering.



## Multiple Meanings:

Session 1: Washing Hands with Distant Hearts

### Joy Circle

Jan. 4, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the Parlor

**Bible Study Leader:** Group Study

**Hostess:** Please bring a sack lunch.

### Love Circle

January 23, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

### Good Shepherd Funeral Policy

We continue to give thanks for a devoted group in the Good Shepherd Funeral Committee who lovingly provide a tasty meal following the funeral of our members. The funeral meals are almost always prepared and served by the Funeral the Committee. The demands of catering these meals onsite is a huge task that largely falls on the Lead Cook and Funeral Coordinator. With this in mind, the Funeral Committee and Church Council have approved adding a charge (in addition to the grocery charge) to the Funeral Committee reimbursement which will be: \$75 for 50-100 people served; \$100 for 100-199 people served and \$125 if 200 or more people are served. Thank you to the commitment of the Good Shepherd Funeral Committee.

**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 January 2018

9:00 a.m. John & Sue Vee

Jon & William Huper

### Bulletin & Voice Dates to Know:

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

Voice Articles for February 2018 are Due January 19, 2018.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
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