

The Voice
May 2017

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

Holy Hot Dish Sale



The youth who are attending the 2018 Youth Gathering are hosting a “Holy Hot Dish” sale following worship on Wednesday, May 10 (at a table near the church offices) and Sunday, May 14 (on a table near the front door of the church & in the basement at coffee fellowship). The hot dishes will be available in both a smaller square size and a larger rectangle size and will be labeled with ingredients and baking instructions. All proceeds will go toward the Youth Gathering accounts of the hot dish chefs.



Annual Church Benefit Auction

June 13, 2017
Auction begins at 5:00 p.m.

Auctioneers: Karen & Duane Bergemann

Meal starts at 4:45 p.m. and continues during auction
Call the church office at 553-3513 if you contribute an item or service. Auction items can come to the church now or on the day of auction.



Has your Flame Gone Out?



The statistics are the same at most every church...many people desire to be a member of a church but then choose to attend worship only rarely. It baffles some of us who wonder, “why be the member of a congregation and then attend worship only once or twice a year, if that?”

The pews were filled at Good Shepherd on Easter Sunday. Half as many worshipped the next Sunday. I’ve asked people, “why?” before and people often have a long list of reasons about why they worship only occasionally.

On the other hand, we have members who worship each and every week and they have many reasons as to why worship attendance is worth their while. Regular worshippers tell me that it nourishes their faith and their relationships with others to be consistent.

A story I once heard explains one of the reasons why worship is important: A member of a church had previously attended worship most every week but had stopped going. After many weeks of absence, the pastor decided to visit the member.

It was a chilly evening when the pastor came to visit. The pastor found the member alone at home, sitting in front of a blazing fire in the living room fireplace. Guessing the reason for the pastor’s visit, the member welcome the pastor inside, led the pastor to a comfy chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor got comfortable in front of the fire but said nothing. In silence, the pastor and the member both studies the way the flames danced around the burning logs. After several minutes , the pastor took the fireplace tongs and carefully picked up a burning ember and moved it to the side of the hearth, far from the burning logs. Then the pastor sat back into the overstuffed chair, silent.

The host watched the flame on the lone ember burn out. For a bit there was a glow from the ember but eventually it was cold and dull.

The pastor and the member remained silent while the pastor finally used the tongs and picked the cold ember up and put it back into the mass of logs. Immediately it started to glow and light up when it was surrounded by burning coals.

The pastor got up and walked to the door and the church member said, “Thank you for the visit and the fiery sermon. I will see you in worship next week!”

Good Shepherd continues to worship twice each week, year round. See you in worship,
Pastor Mary

Service Group 7

Will be serving in the month of **June**. Service Group will sign up for jobs on Wednesday and Sunday, May 10 & 14, 2017. 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.

Nancy & Russ Elmer	William Groskreutz	Jillian & Layne Possin
Emily Allard	Tom & Angie Huper	Jill Rollenhagen
Rick & Pam Baird	Kim Kruger	Jessie Routh
Jerad & Paula Billings	Vicki Kuhn	David & Brenda Sauer
Ronald & Sue Boeck	Rick & Tammy Mandler	Bryan & Amy Schroeder
Myrna Boggess	Harvey & Emily Malakowsky	Thomas & Sandy Schroeder
Trudy Drugg	Harold & Karen Niebuhr	Marian Sonnek
Robert III & Erin Eckwright	Nicholas Niebuhr	Merrie Sorensen
Merlin & Rosa Fette	Sheila O'Rourke	James & Lauryne Stern
		Marshall Tatge



April showers bring May flowers! Join us for a fun filled day with spring flower games and activities including a visit with Jenny Lutteke, owner of Jenny's Pink Petals. Everyone 55 and older is invited to the Broadway Apartments on Wednesday, May 17 at 11:00 a.m. for a time to socialize and enjoy a meal provided by the May service group.

Ministerial Acts:

First Communion - Anna DeLaitre, daughter of Mark DeLaitre & Pearl Vedders
Chloe Diane Lutteke, daughter of Chris & Jenny Lutteke
Kadyn Neubauer, son of Adam & Kristy Neubauer
Christian W. Phillips, son of Jill Johnson
Funeral - 4/21-Grace Niebuhr Funeral Prayer Service: 4/18-Janet Fraker



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.

Connect Groups

Dinner Connect Group

The Dinner Connect Group will meet May 7th at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Ron & Jody Wegner, 57536 110th ST, Wells, for a cookout. We will be providing the burgers to grill, beverage and dinnerware. If someone wants something else to grill they will need to bring it. Also a dish to pass and a lawn chair. Please RSVP by May 5th by calling Jody Wegner, 553-3072 or the church office 553-3513. All are welcome even if are not able to call by May 5th.

Update about Hiring of Worship Accompanist

With the approval of the Church Council, the Good Shepherd Worship and Music Committee has started the hiring process for an Organist or Pianist to accompany our worship services. Advertisements have appeared in several area newspapers and a job description is prepared and now we wait and pray. In the meantime, we are grateful for Jean Carlson and other nearby musicians who are serving as substitutes.



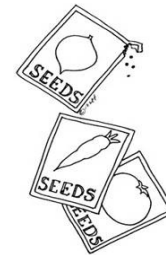
Palm Sunday Brunch Report

Thank you, Good Shepherd, for your generous support of the Good Shepherd Youth by attending the Palm Sunday Brunch. Thank you to Lauryne Stern, who coordinated the event and provided great leadership. Thanks, as well, to Harold and Karen Niebuhr who provided us with the Thrivent Action Team gift that paid for all the meal expenses. We raised \$512, which is all going toward the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Trip.

Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly

Equipping Congregations to Follow Jesus into a Changing World
May 6 & 7 ~ Mayo Civic Center, Rochester

Each year the ELCA congregations of our SE MN synod gather in assembly for worship, Bible study, fellowship and to conduct the business of the synod. The business of the synod includes elections, voting on a budget, resolutions and reports. Good Shepherd will be represented by Sandy Coats, Sandi Hartman and Pastor Mary Iverson. Watch for a report about the Assembly in the June Voice Newsletter.



Garden Produce for the Food Shelf

Once again this year, Good Shepherd is sponsoring a garden plot in the Community Garden, with all produce donated to the Wells Area Food Shelf. A special thanks to Sandy Coats, who is overseeing the garden plot for the second year. Let the church office know if you want to help Sandy with weeding or harvesting this summer. You can also plant extra rows in your garden for the Food Shelf or donate extra produce. Extra produce can be brought to the Food Shelf any Tuesday.

Wednesday Nights at Good Shepherd

Wednesday Night Supper

Served 5:00–6:00 p.m.

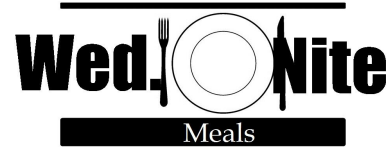
KIDS EAT FREE every week! *Kids who are in 12th grade and under eat free!*

Adults: Suggested donation of \$4. This continues to be an important ministry in our congregation.

Menus for May:

- 3 - Fajitas
- 10 - Sloppy Joes
- 17 - Chicken Pot Pies
- 24 - Meatloaf and Potatoes
- 31 - BLT's and Tomato Soup

(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/PB&J Classes End Soon for Summer

Wednesdays 7:00-7:45pm in the Church Education Wing

Classes will be held on May 3 & 10 during the month of May. May 10 will be the last class until we resume in the fall. Thanks to Beth Heggen and Nicole Swanson who lead the Wednesday School classes, along with Amy Schroeder who led music. Thanks to Lyssa Warmka, Amy Crabtree and Carol Jacobson for leading the PB&J classes for our youngest learners. A special thanks to 7 of our 9th graders who helped with the Wednesday School classes as “Big Shepherds.” They were thanked with a special trip to “Smaaash” in the Mall of America on April 30.

Confirmation in May

Confirmation classes will meet on May 3 & May 10. On May 3 we will do a community service project by cleaning the Good Shepherd section of the “adopt a highway” and clean the ditches along highway 22 during class time and then gather for a snack at the Dairy Queen. The 8th graders were given the outlines for their Faith Paper, which is due on September 10.

Sunday School Ends Soon for Summer

Sunday School will be held on May 7 & 14 before it takes a break until autumn. A special thanks to our teachers: Kim Stevermer, Sara Theede and Lana Wegner and the Sunday School coordinator, Tammy Mandler. Thanks as well to Andy Groskreutz who got the curriculum to the teachers each week.

Senior Graduate Recognition

High School graduates will be honored and blessed during worship on Wednesday, 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 Wednesday, May 31 at 7:00pm at the USC auditorium. Please watch for a letter in the mail with all the details.



Inspirational Speaker Deb Hadley

Wednesday, May 24 at 7:00pm

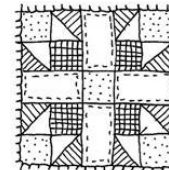
USC Auditorium ~ Free of Charge

Good Shepherd, St. Casimer's and the Wells Assembly of God Church, together with the Wells Ministerial are sponsoring an inspirational speaker visit to Wells. Deb Hadley of Sleepy Eye, MN will share a message you will want to hear.

Everyone has or will have adversity in their life at one time or another. It is how we handle our adversity that defines who we are. Deb Hadley will share with you her journey of losing two children, and how she is able to handle these tragedies with grace and humility and bring good from her hardships. Deb believes that despite your circumstances you can still have an amazing life. She will make you cry, laugh, and give you hope for an amazing future.

Nothing can compare to how Deb has handled the tragic loss of her 24 year old daughter Kaylie, and the sudden loss of her 20 year old son Tyler within 9 months of each other. Through her immense pain she has found strength in the Lord and through His strength has turned her grief into grace by sharing her journey.

This message is appropriate for adults down to junior high students.



Blessing of the Quilts

Quilts made by our own Crafty Quilters will be blessed in worship on Wednesday, May 3 and Sunday, May 7 before they are boxed up to be gifted to Lutheran World Relief, LSS Minnesota, Albert Lea HS Students and Winnebago Adolescent Treatment Center. Be sure to look at the beautiful assortment of quilts displayed in the sanctuary in the midst of the blessing. Volunteers are always welcome to help cut or tie or sew on Monday mornings. See Diane Lutteke with any questions.



Vacation Bible School

June 5-7, 2017

4 Yrs. to 5th Grade
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Last School Grade Completed: _____

In case of emergency contact: _____

Mother: _____

Father: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Home Church: _____

Cost: \$5.00 per child or \$10.00 per family, amount paid \$ _____ Date: _____

May Birthdays

1-Orville Linde
Gabriella Steinborn
2-Alverna Ehlert
Kadyn Neubauer
3-Lillyan Lutteke
4-Deb Willner
5-Hannah Olson
Samantha Swanson
Jeff Teskey
6-Teagan Lutteke
8-Ashley Ignaszewski
9-Declan Willner
11-Lori Hueper
12-Marshall Bye
15-Danika Diekmann

Joan Morgan
16-Rich Hueper
Judy Melcher
Margit Rodahl
Sandy Schroeder
Aldoris Strand
17-Allisha Trytten
18-Todd Lutteke
June Quade
Joan Stern
19-Jim Ramaker
20-Ruth Majeski
Chris Melby
21-Lenny Diekmann
22-Walker Linde

Julie Treptow
23-Olivia Niebuhr
Ila Teskey
24-Mike Lesto
Andrea Treptow
Mary Van Horn
25-Marah Niebuhr
26-Rita Bathke
Gary Hagen
Dan Hart
27-Bea Hensche
29-JoAnn Ackerman
30-Leonard Cihlar
Maxine Thorson
Leah Winch



Joy Circle

May 4, 2017 at 12:00 pm in the Parlor
Bible Study Leader: Marilyn Rauenhorst
Hostess: Bring a sack lunch

Pastor: Mary Iverson
C-507-420-6126
email-maryiverson@hotmail.com

Administrative Secretary: Andrea Groskreutz

Treasurer: Ardene Breitreutz

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.)

You are Not Alone

Devotional Study

Love Circle

May 23, 2017 at 9:30 am

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

Ushers for May 2017

9:00 a.m. Gary & Marlene Kauffmann,
Mike Christensen, Kent Stern

Bulletin & Voice Dates to Know:

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

Voice Articles for June 2017 are Due May
18th.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
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Wells, MN 56097

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