



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

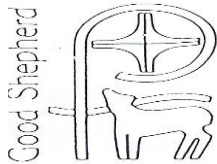
God's work. Our hands.

# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Volume 19, Issue 2

February 2016



## **Mission Statement of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is the family of God gathered under our Lord's care, equipped with the good news of Jesus to share God's love with the world.*

### **Good Shepherd Information**

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Interim Pastor – Steve Dahl

218 758-3430

Secretary – Nancy Oseien

548-2401

Custodian – Lori Klever

583-2710

### **2015 Officers**

President– Diane Thorson 583-2458

Vice Pres.– Pam Moran

548-5438

Secretary – Nancy Peterson

583-4661

Treasurer –

Joan Fosse

583-4164

W-ELCA President -2016

Nancy Peterson

583-4166

I just want to thank all my family and my church family for all the prayers for me during my rough fall during bouts of pneumonia, mini strokes and the acute stroke and surgery. I felt the prayers uplifting me, appreciated them as well as the cards and words of concern. Special thanks to the deacons who filled in serving communion when I couldn't do it. Our church family is overwhelmingly thoughtful and kind! I am blessed!

*Jim Morse*

Thank you for the cards and prayer shawl that I received following my recent knee surgery. I could feel the power of the prayers in the prayer shawl the first night I wrapped it around my shoulders. I had the best night of sleep since the surgery. The caring and concern of the Good Shepherd family is greatly appreciated.

*Diane Thorson*

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the scholarship. It will be used directly for my schooling. I am currently a Junior at NDSU and am pursuing an AG Business degree. Thank you again!

*Zach Torgerson*

Dear Friends,

As I write this message I am in the beginning stages of planning for Lenten mid-week services. *“Life on the Edge of Faith”* is the theme for our Lenten worship. Area pastors and faith leaders will help us enter into the story leading up to Jesus’ crucifixion by presenting a variety of characters and their points of view about the events which are unfolding before them. Please take advantage of this opportunity to get to know some of your “faith neighbors.”

Because we are using a “round robin” model for these services, the afternoon service will need to go by the wayside for this year. I apologize if this causes inconvenience, but it seems to me a wise way to make a smoother transition for a newly ordained and freshly arrived pastor who will almost certainly arrive during this very busy time of year. Below, you will see a schedule of the services, characters, and leaders for mid-week services.

**Wednesday, February 17 7:00 p.m.**  
“A Maid” Rev. Ali Haugerud – Eagle Lake Lutheran

**Wednesday, February 24 7:00 p.m.**  
“A Pharisee” Rev. Tom Junkert – Maine Presbyterian

**Wednesday, March 2 7:00 p.m.**  
“A City Dweller” Mr. Troy Olson – OTC LYO

**Wednesday, March 9 7:00 p.m.**  
“Wandering through the Wilderness” Intern Jon Rundquist – Zion, Amor

**Wednesday, March 16 7:00 p.m.**  
“A Sleeping Disciple” Rev. James Gronbeck – Zion, Amor

Also, this may be my last opportunity to communicate with you via newsletter. As I prepare for departure, I want to thank you for the opportunity and privilege to have served for a second time as your pastor. I set forth three goals as I began here: 1) To make some improvement in worship attendance, 2) To introduce ELW (our new hymnals), and 3) To bring some resolution to the dilemma of what to do with our building and the funds designated to address building needs. We have certainly made progress. While the building issues are not resolved, I feel that we have at least been in process and that we have learned ways to constructively discuss building issues and to deliberately love each other even when we disagree. I am so grateful to Nancy, Lori, Carleen, Diane, and Wilma for their faithful service, and to all who provide such outstanding volunteer leadership!

Goodbyes are always difficult. I ask you to celebrate the things I have done well and to forgive me where I have failed. Good Shepherd (you people of Good Shepherd) will always hold a very special place in my memory and my heart.

In Christ’s humble service,

*Pastor Steve Dahl*



Dear WELCA Members:

January 13 was our 1<sup>st</sup> general meeting of the year. We enjoyed a good lunch, went through the first session of our 2016 Bible Study, approved our 2016 Budget, and have committee volunteers for our Valentine Tea.

This year the Valentine Tea will be on Saturday, February 13, 2016. I think the community looks forward to this event, and I'm sure, as usual, there will be great treats and wonderful fellowship!

On that note, I'd like to include the following poems about Valentine's Day and tea time.

**God's Valentine Gift**     *By Joanna Fuchs*

God's Valentine gift of love to us was not a bunch of flowers;  
It wasn't candy, or a book to while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man, so He could freely give  
His sacrificial love for us, so you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and instruction,  
good and true--  
To love our friends and enemies and love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines, let's thank our Lord and King;  
The reason we have love to give is that He gave everything.

**Afternoon Tea**     ~ Marianna Arolin  
My copper kettle whistles merrily and signals that it is time for tea.

The fine china cups are filled with the brew.  
There's lemon and sugar and sweet cream, too.  
But, best of all there's friendship, between you and me.

As we lovingly share our afternoon tea.

Don't Despair – Winter's almost over – it's only about 7 weeks until Spring!

Nancy Peterson  
WELCA President

**Sunday Services at GLC**

Good Shepherd is responsible for February 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the Golden Living Center – Please call or contact Vivian Palm to let her know you will help out. 548-4209.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST – JoJo's**  
**Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM**

Come and join us for food, fellowship and Bible study.

Open to men of all ages.

**A New Library Book** worth reading is "A Man Named Dave" by David Pelzer. If you have read "A Child Named It" and "The Lost Boy" you are ready to read this autobiography – it is very inspiring. (Thank you Vivian for offering your book reviews!)

**AND...**Have you read The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton? Do you by chance have it in *your library at home*? It is missing from **ours!**



### Converting T-shirts into Diapers

Needed used large and extra large men’s T-shirts – please bring them to the Church and I will convert them into Diapers for the Lutheran World Relief Kit. White is preferred, but can be any colors and the logos will be put on the inside of the diaper.

*Diane Thorson*



### Lutheran Youth Organization

We got 2016 off to a Rolling start with our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Roller Skating and Pizza Palooza in Perham, a big thanks to the PACC and Zorbaz on Little Pine for hosting our group! Looking forward into February we’ve got one of our most popular events of the year.

**On February 14<sup>th</sup>**, we’ll head to Andes Tower Hills just outside of Alexandria for an afternoon of Skiing, Snow Boarding and Tubing, before heading to Faith Haven for an Overnight! At Faith Haven we’ll have a guest speaker, campfire and plenty of time to hang with friends. Be on the lookout for our full spring schedule including registration information for the summer Mission Trip to Denver Colorado, July 30-August 5.



### In Our Prayers

Lloyd & Barb Amundson  
Beverly Bjerketvedt, LuJean Juvrud  
Betsy Peterson, Evelyn Mitchell  
Ken Moenck, Ida Peterson, Judy Curtis,  
Keith Lovell, LuAnne Johnson, Chuck Dahl,  
Phyllis Murphy, Dorothy Nordgren,  
Lou Ann Johnson, Family of Ron Estes,  
Pat Juvrud, Ray Goepferd, Terry Oseien

### Serving in February

Teri & Ron Torgerson  
Richard & Norma Haugdahl  
Doug & Diane Thorson  
Ryan & Abby Emter  
Kevin & Lori Klever  
Pat & Trista Morstad  
Lila Johnston

Deacon: Rance Bjorklund

Offering Counters: Diane Thorson & Nancy O.

Our Giving* in January	Attendance
1/3 \$2228.00	76
1/10 \$1564.00	79
1/17 \$ 2807.00	73
1/24 \$2806.00	97
*\$3900.00 is needed each week in order for us to stay on budget.	

### **Memorials received:**

honoring Bonnie Witt, going toward the new building project, Scholarship Fund and Sunday School

honoring Charles and Shirley Lewis toward the Open Memorial Fund for Cemetery care

### **MAKE A JOYFULL NOISE!!**

**Several of our band and choir members (this includes youth from the Good Shepherd Youth Group) are going to New York, April 7-12.**

**The 9-12 grade youth will have an opportunity to showcase their many talents while in New York. As you can imagine a trip of this magnitude requires some fund raising.**

**Please join us on Valentine's Day after church as the youth *will be making and serving brunch!***

***This will be a free will offering event .***

***Thanks for your support.***

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

2016 is here and it will bring forth exciting times for our Good Shepherd family. On January 31st our Congregation will have the official meeting to call a new Pastor. Pastor Keith Langford and his wife Chantelle are excited to start their ministry with us. The Call Committee has worked long and hard to find just the right fit for our community. The Synod is making arrangements for Pastor Keith's Ordination in his home church. Following that we will establish the date for Pastor Keith's Installation at our church.

The building committee has taken a step back. We have determined the first plans that had been developed would not be a right fit for our congregation. We have ended our agreement with Richard Fischer at this time. We are now working on developing a new set of plans that will address the needs and wishes we have heard that people want to see. Our plan is to work with Rick Hammer and obtain an architectural audit of the new plans. The new plans should also be closer to our proposed budget. We are thankful for the Lloyd and Barbara Amundson Challenge to match \$2 for each \$1 we raise up to \$200,000 prior to June 1, 2016. Please share with Pastor Dahl the dollar amount you could contribute to the Building Project Fund prior to June 1. As of this month we have received commitments for close to 30% of the amount needed. The funds remaining from the sale of the Kort property, the insurance payment for new carpeting in the fellowship hall, and cash donations received for the building project have been placed in a money market account at the bank.

A member of our congregation was informed that Ken Nyberg has created a Shepherd and sheep sculpture to be donated to our church in memory of family members. We have informed Mr. Nyberg we would be happy to accept the gift, however we would like to delay the delivery until we have finalized our church plans.

Our annual meeting will be held on February 21, 2016 following the church service. We are seeking a person to serve on the Board of Deacons. If you would like to answer this call to service please inform Pastor Dahl, Nancy Oseien, or one of the Church Council members. My term as your President will end following the annual meeting. I thank you for your support during the past three years. Lord Jesus give me the strength to walk with Thee. Keep me faithful in my daily tasks and guide me as I close out this term of Leadership.

Diane Thorson

## FOOD DRIVE AT CHRISTMAS

November 30<sup>th</sup> we put into action the approved application for our Thrivent Action Team seed money for a “**Food for Christmas**” project to benefit the local Henning Food Shelf. Commissioning the congregation of Good Shepherd and volunteers with an invitation to local churches to join us and share in this project with directions of meditation and prayer for our hands to do the work from Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>. The response was overwhelming and on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> the volunteers met and organized boxes and bagged food. It was then delivered to the Food Shelf where it was weighed. **We collected 557 pounds of food and with our seed money we were able to purchase another 198 pounds of perishable foods to supplement the donations making a nice Christmas for 40 families. 755 pounds of food through caring hearts is truly a Christmas blessing in our community.**

We thanked the area churches for their participation and the Food Shelf volunteers for their help and dedication. **We NOW thank you, Good Shepherd members and volunteers for your support and Thrivent for the opportunity to make this project happen...THANK YOU!!**

*Rita Ellenson*

## Results of our special Congregational Meeting

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING  
JANUARY 31, 2016

Special meeting called to order by President- Diane Thorson @ 11:00 A.M.

This meeting is to vote on calling Edward Keith Lankford as Pastor for our church. This is the one, and only, item for this meeting.

Our bylaws state a quorum of at least 25 members – today we have at least 80+ eligible voting members present. Persons eligible to vote are members who are confirmed, donated or taken Holy Communion in the past year.

Devotions – Pastor Dahl – A few verses from Ephesians Chapter 4

Diane Thorson recognized the Call Committee Members – Present today were Brian Ebeling, Diane Hermanson, and Tom Nygaard. Other committee members not present were Jim & Julie Espland, Pat Juvrud, Terry Oscarson, and Holly Weller.

Diane Thorson spoke about Keith – his background, etc. Diane said that Keith’s wife Chantell is interested in inviting a few members at a time to have pie and coffee with them, in order to get to know them better.

Members of the call committee present today were asked to talk about what qualifications/skills they were looking for in a pastor, and what they got out of the interviews that made them feel Keith was qualified.

Tom Nygaard said they had 8 skill sets they were looking for. Community involvement was of importance to Tom. Tom said the youth involved in the interviews felt that Keith was very approachable.

Brian Ebeling saw Keith as a strong leader and that he will take us in the right direction, compassionate, good at recalling names, and a great communicator.

Music was of importance to Diane Hermanson. She felt Keith was easy going and a warm person. Keith is interested in choosing the hymns, and has a mostly traditional approach to his music selection. He will do some singing and chanting for our services.

## Keith Lankford

Tom Nygaard made motion “Shall the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Henning, MN call Edward Keith Lankford as Pastor for the church?”  
Brian Ebeling 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There were questions and more discussion about Keith. It was asked if gay marriage was discussed in the interviews, and Call Committee member said yes, that it was. Our church policy on marriage was reviewed.

Eligible members were asked to fill out their ballots. The Deacons then collected the ballots and counted them.

Diane Thorson announced the results – 86 Yes votes and 0 (Zero) No votes. Everyone applauded!

Keith and Chantell will be arriving in Henning on Saturday, February 6 with some of their belongings to move into the parsonage. They have asked for volunteers to help them move in about 4:00 pm that day, with a potluck meal to follow for them and the helpers.

Keith will be ordained at his home church in Athens, GA on Sunday February 14. Installation of Keith at our church isn't set yet, but he can start before that happens.

Keith & Chantell will be arriving back to Henning on February 16 with their remaining belongings, and have asked for help then too.

It was announced that there will be a brunch here at church on Sunday, February 14, put on by the 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders, to raise money for their band/choir trip to NYC.

Sunday, February 21 will be the date of our church annual meeting, and also a special send off for Pastor Steve and Candace Dahl.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer - Meeting adjourned by President Diane Thorson

Submitted by Council Secretary – Nancy Peterson

Keith Lankford is a native of Watkinsville, GA, (near Athens) and was raised in a Southern Baptist family. He graduated high school in 1994, and from the University of Georgia in 2012 with a degree in history. In between, Keith spent fourteen years in the hospitality and travel industries, primarily at a hotel where he held positions from night auditor to front desk manager. After spending some years away from the Christian faith, Keith returned to Christ in the Lutheran church, and soon after felt a calling to the pastoral ministry. He entered Luther Seminary in 2012, where he met his now wife, Chantell, who is also studying to become a pastor at St. John's School of Theology in Collegeville. While at seminary, he held internships at Hazelden in Center City as a Spiritual Care Advisor, and at Zion Lutheran Church of Amor as an Intern Pastor. Among Keith's hobbies and interests are reading, ancient and American histories, watching B-movies, and working on diagramless crossword puzzles. He and his wife are also the proud parents of two cats (Roger and Gance), and a dog (Dr. Watson).



**Good Shepherd Lutheran  
Church in Henning**

Cordially Invites You to  
Our Annual Women's

**Valentine's Day Tea**

**Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

**2:00 to 4:00 PM**

**COME FOR TEA & TREATS**

**For All Ages**

**Share God's Love On  
This Special Day!**