

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

February 2019 Newsletter

FROM PASTOR DAVE

Psalm 51

To the leader.

A Psalm of David, **when** the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart**, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

¹³ **Then I will teach** transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

¹⁵ O Lord, **open my lips**, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

¹⁹ then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God
Psalm 51*

The divine drama of redemption and salvation is lived out yearly and daily through the words of Psalm 51. I can't imagine a day or a year without these words. The season of Lent begins each year with the simple liturgical rubrics for Ash Wednesday: "The assembly gathers in silence. The service begins with Psalm 51." Every year these words take us to the depth of our brokenness and offer a cleansing that can only happen through the creative act of God. Year after year after year.

Continued next page...

...Pastor Dave continued

Morning Prayer begins each day with these words: “O Lord, open my lips,” leading us into a daily experience of the cleansing of our hearts. Psalm 51 guides us on this heart journey, day after day after day. What could be more important? In preparation for the beginning of Lent on March 6 let’s take a closer look at Psalm 51. The syntax of this psalm reveals a curriculum for daily and yearly spiritual renewal, structured around these key words:

When
Have mercy
Create in me a clean heart
Then I will teach
Open my lips

When

The superscription of the psalm describes the story of 2 Samuel 11, when the prophet Nathan exposed David’s sins of adultery and murder. The powerful words of confession flow from the depth of this conviction. The exposure of sinfulness is extended to every “David” who has sinned. The Holy Spirit shines into our hearts through the light of God’s Word and reveals our need for cleansing.

Have mercy

The need for mercy for David and for us is revealed through the full vocabulary for brokenness before God: transgression (rebellion against God), iniquity (turning away from God) and sin (missing the mark of God’s holiness). We realize that our sin consists of not only our actions, but our thoughts and motives as well. God’s unconditional, steadfast love is the basis for mercy. Each word for sin is matched by a word for cleansing.

Create in me a clean heart

The accurate diagnosis of our heart condition leads to the only possible solution. God is the only subject of the word “create” in the Hebrew Bible. As in the creation account of Genesis, the spoken word of God is the only power able to clean our hearts. Daily and yearly, we stand before God in a relationship based solely on steadfast love and mercy. And that changes everything.

Then I will teach

Our response to the merciful cleansing of God is to share this word with others. A robust understanding of “teaching” in the biblical sense is to pass on a life to another person. The content of our teaching is not our own knowledge or ability, but our experience of gracious cleansing through the mercy of God. Steadfast love is shared and experienced in this daily and yearly drama.

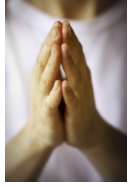
Open my lips

In the wisdom of the liturgy, the first words spoken each day are praise for the merciful cleansing of God. God’s people return to their deepest identity as forgiven, and become vessels of mercy in a world desperately in need of heart cleansing. Thanks be to God!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Mann".

LCGS IS PRAYING

Good Shepherd randomly prays for all its members.
During these weeks we are keeping the following in our prayers:



Feb 3 Char Flaten; Lara & Charlie Ahrens, Dane and Peter;
Traci & Tim Ball, Victoria and Matthew

Feb 10 Marilyn & Hugh Flatley; Janice Barker; Kimberley & Wayne Elmer

Feb 17 Sandy Fleck; Barb & Don Garnett; Ardene Barth; Elaine Elmer

Feb 24 Mark Forsman; Amie & Joel Abenth, Ella and Isak; Jennie & Marty Emeott, Cora and Bo

Prayer

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.
Proverbs 8:17

PRAYER REQUEST - If you would like us to pray for a specific concern, please call the office at 525-1922 and your request will be shared with others who care about your needs and believe God will hear and answer. If you have a prayer request emergency and it is after church office hours, please email Patti at office@lcsduluth.org.

PRAYERS FOR HOSPITALIZED PERSONS shared with the Prayer Chain (and in the Prayers of the Church) will begin with "God knows the names of all for whom we pray..." unless permission has been granted by the hospitalized individual or a family member of the individual. This is in keeping with our Privacy Policy. If you have questions/ comments regarding this policy, please feel free to discuss it with one of the pastors.

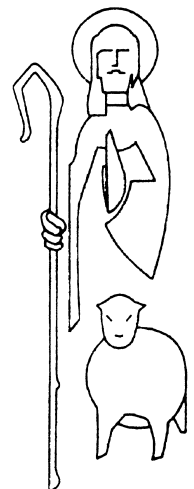
Snow Cancelations

It's that time of year again! We want to make sure everyone is safe out on the roads! If Schools are cancelled, we cancel all youth activities. Otherwise, we will use our weekly email and our Facebook page to announce weather related closings at LCGS.

If you are not already receiving emails, text "LCGS" to 22828 to be added to our email list. Please take a moment to "Like" our PAGE at facebook.com/lcsduluth

Worship Attendance

	<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>		<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>		<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>
12/2	133	na	12/9	257	150	12/16	119	60
	<u>10:00</u>			<u>2:30</u>	<u>4:30</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>10:00</u>	
12/23	143		12/24	236	312	95	12/25	65
	<u>10:00</u>			<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>		<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>
12/30	96		1/6	118	50	1/13	84	46



Welcome to our new staff! We are so happy you are here!

Katie Reynolds, Office Manager - Katie says, "I am excited to be part of an organization that has such a positive impact on the Community! My husband, Chris, our yellow lab, and I live a mile north of Knife River. We enjoy spending time with our family and friends hiking, camping, golfing, and watching movies!"

Stef Regenold, Custodian - After over 15 years of wanting to live in Duluth, a career opportunity became available for Stef's spouse, Ana at UMD. Ana moved here about 4 1/2 years ago, followed by Stef 6 months later. Stef has 6 years of emergency services experience and over 5 years of facility repair and cleaning experience. Most of Stef & Ana's time away from work is devoted to animal rescue. They currently live with their rescued cat and 2 boxers! Stef is thrilled to be working with an organization of people who live their values.

We will be Celebrating Patti Hallback's ministry and retirement, February 3rd! Please join us!

Sunday School!

Sunday, February 3rd: Noah's Ark!

Sunday, February 11th: Annual Meeting means the Annual Movie Day for Sunday School Children! Parents are encouraged to attend the meeting while kids watch a movie all together in the Lower Lakeside Room.

Sundays February 17th and 24th there is no Sunday School because of Duluth School's Winter Break!

Faith Steps begin March 3rd!! Be ready for fun as each grade learns a new article of faith!

Confirmation!

We have regularly scheduled Confirmation on Wednesdays EXCEPT on February 20th we are off for Winter Break! Thank you for all your hard work!



Thank you to our Sunday School Families and our confirmation students for participating in our Outreach January! We put together hundreds of personal care kits, breakfast food kits, mittens, and blankets that have been delivered to local shelters! Bravo!





The Stewardship Committee is pleased to offer its first personal finance workshop for our members.

With the support of the LCGS Endowment Fund and partnering with LSS Financial Counseling Service we are offering a free workshop on identity theft; "Scam Proof Your Finances: Defending Yourself".

Plan to leave this workshop smarter than the identity thieves. You'll learn the many ways identity theft can happen to adults, or even kids, and steps to prevent it. Gain confidence in your safety online and in financial interactions; know about free, effective resources to turn to, if ID theft does happen. Learn what to do with a "deter-detect-defend" strategy to minimize your risk.

In this age of frequent data breaches – this is important information for everyone – teens to adults. All our welcome!!



This free workshop will be offered on Thursday, February 7th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Upper Lakeside Room. Please sign up for this engaging and informative workshop in the church office or at the Welcome Desk at worship on Sundays. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Aulie at susan.aulie@outlook.com or 218-341-1083

Create, Laugh, and Learn

We were happy to partner with ROLT and the Sunday School Service project to complete 50+ more pair of wool and fleece mittens for our community. Thank you to everyone who worked cutting, sewing, piecing, ripping, and embellishing every one! We laughed our way through the "right hand" "left hand" challenges. You are all a gift to our church and community. Thank you for showing up! Sue Boutin

NEXT CREATE IN FEBRUARY

Super Sunday Sweet Pie...Yum! By Cyndi Venberg

Cyndi will wave her magic rolling pin and show us how to make lovely pie crusts for a filling of your choice. Just ask Pastor Dave how good they are! Bring your own filling ingredients or the cherry pie ingredients listed below. We will bake and take home warm pies for your Sunday meal. Come join in the fun!

Sunday February 3rd from 1:00-2:00PM in Fellowship Hall Kitchen

Items to bring:

A large bowl with a sealed lid to shake the pie crust.

Rolling pin (optional)

Pastry cutter (optional)

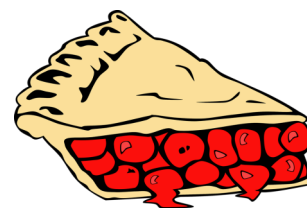
Pie pan

4 cups of white flour

1 ½ cups of Crisco

1 egg

2 cans of cherry pie filling or other filling for the kind of pie you want to try.



If you have questions about this part call Cyndi Venberg, 218-391-8953, and she can help you with your ideas.

World Relief Kits:

For February, we highlight our requests for baby supplies. All donations welcome. Suggestion: ask friends and families of young children: do they have shirts, blankets and sleepers for babies which could be outgrown and ready to move along. No onesies and no feet in sleepers are preferred!

Kits hold "t shirts, gowns or sleepers, receiving blankets, cloth diapers, jackets, sweaters or sweatshirts, hats if no hood on sweater, socks, hand towels, gentle soap and diaper pins". Thanks for your donations (yellow box in gathering space) from LCGS circle members.

The Endowment Fund Annual Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation are scheduled for February 10th, 2019, 9:45am There will be one more **Budget Forum on Sunday February 3rd at 10:00am in the Upper Lakeside Room.** Leading up to the Annual meeting. This is a perfect chance to discuss the 2019 budget and ask questions of the Vision Council and Budget team!

2018 End of the year statements we sent out and should be arriving on your doorstep by February 1st! Thank you!!

I want to thank you for a fabulous three years of serving as President of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Together, we played a key role in the construction and launch of Lutheran Social Service, Center for Changing Lives. We paid off our mortgage debt and restructured our finances for the better. And we celebrated 75 years of mission and ministry at Good Shepherd with a keen eye toward embracing what the next 75 years holds for us. God bless each of you.

~ Jennifer V. Julsrud, LCGS President

Thank you very much for the Prayer Shawl Sue Munns made for my husband, Paul Roseth. We received it last Sunday at church. We very much appreciate the prayers and are thankful we are part of such a caring congregation. Thank you again, Catherine Roseth



Summer Camp Registration is now open!

Check out the schedule on our website -
www.VLMcamps.org/summer-schedule



We are also seeking college-aged young adults to serve on our summer staff!
If you or someone you know is interested have them contact us today.

TWINS GAME-BUS TRIP – Families Welcome!

Sponsored by:

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans)

Saturday, June 15th Game starts at 6:10 p.m.



Please join us for our second annual trip to **Target Field**. We are chartering a **LCS luxury coach** with room for **55 fans**. Plans are to board the bus at **2:00 p.m.** from the church parking lot and return after the **6:10 p.m.** game against the **Kansas City Royals**. The cost of **\$52** includes the ticket and bus charter. The seats are in section 206, with elevators, escalators, delicious game food and bathrooms very close to the section for easy access.

Call Marcia Opien, 218-525-2310 or email rosebud2310@msn.com to reserve your seat. Make checks payable to LCGS-OWLS. Please do not bring checks to the church office, instead mail checks to Marcia Opien at 4916 Oakley St, Duluth, MN 55804.

To all the wonderful musicians who blessed us this advent and Christmas season, we thank you for sharing your gifts; pianists, brass, instrumentalists, and singers. Music carries God's word and spirit deep into our hearts. Thank you for being part of touching our souls during these past few weeks. And a special thank you to our organist, Linda Turpening! You continually bless us with your loving spirit and musicianship which shows in every piece you choose and are asked to play. Thank you Debbie Sanders for her leadership of choirs!



Thank you - Dear Friends at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,
Thank you for the generous donation of gift cards for the youth of Life House! We appreciate you all giving to our youth to make their Christmas special.
Merry Christmas to all! The Life House staff, board, and youth

Thank you for your congregational contribution of \$11.00 to CHUM in November. Your gift will allow us to continue to provide food, shelter, advocacy, and a caring community for some of Duluth's most vulnerable residents. Thank you for your congregational contribution of \$520.00 to CHUM in November. Your gift has been designated for CHUM's Food Shelf.

Your support of CHUM, in all ways - time, treasure and good will - makes our work possible. Thank you again.

Sincerely, Mary Schmitz, Development Director
Lee Stuart, Executive Director



Bell Ringing - Christmas is the time when The Salvation Army has the greatest opportunity to do the most good. The Red Kettle campaign is their largest fund raising event. THANK YOU everyone who helped with bell ringing this holiday season - the Keppers, Bill Kovala, Roger & Helen Munson, the Kemp family, John Carlson, Tricia & Tommy Menz, Pat & Susan Sage, Laurel Pagel, Karen & Ellen Guerndt, the Kramer family, Tom & Pat O'Brien, Katie & Clayton & Jasper Rich, Wayne & Kimberly Elmer, Wayne & Karen Kragseth, Linda Susens, the Seidemann's, Anita Jones, Bob Hill & Kathryn Sislo, Gina & Ben & Cora & Jeff Kreager, Cyndi Venberg, and Marcia Semerau. We covered 20 hours at Cub Foods on two Saturdays in December. People were richly blessed as a result of your generous contribution of time and for your giving spirit during this very busy time of year. Thank you!
Marcia Semerau, Reaching Out Leadership Team

Dear Friends,

On behalf of The Salvation Army and those we serve, "Thank you" for being a bell ringer this past Christmas season! Our records show that you raised a total of \$1358.23.

Here's a partial summary of the season:

Total amount collected in 2018 \$261,196.49

Total hours staffed by volunteers 3,693

Total hours staffed by employees 996

Volunteer ringers raised \$179,274.02

Top kettle locations were Mount Royal, Walmart, Cub Foods

955 = Number of households assisted at Christmas with food and/or toys

3,150 = Number of individuals assisted at Christmas with food and/or toys

1,833 = Number of children assisted at Christmas with toys

Your time spent volunteering and giving this past kettle season is of great value to us as we provide food, clothing, housing, and other basics to those in need. Your help supports our work, not only at Christmas, but throughout the whole year.

Sincerely, Jill Buchholz, Assistant Director of Administration



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Services at 8:45 am and 11:00 am

Office Hours: M-Th • 9AM-4PM; Friday • 9AM—12 NOON

Phone: 218-525-1922 •

Website: www.lcgsduluth.com

MEET THE STAFF

Pastor Dave Mesner, Lead Pastor
(home) 218-529-9715
email: dmesner@lcgsduluth.org

Pastor Tim Berdahl, Pastor
(home) 218-728-4382
email: tberdahl@lcgsduluth.org

Katie Rich, Director of Youth & Family Ministry
218-525-1922
email: kkrich@lcgsduluth.org

Patti Hallback, Katie Reynolds, Office Manager
218-525-1922
email: office@lcgsduluth.org

Amie Abenth, Communications Coordinator
218-525-1922
email: communications@lcgsduluth.org

Stef Regenold, custodian
Greg Susens, custodian 218-525-1922

Beth Lee, Treasurer 218-525-1922

Sydney Fischer, Nursery Director 218-525-1922

Music Team:

Linda Turpening, Organist 218-525-1922
email: linda@archdirect.com

Debbie Sanders, Good Shepherd Choir Director
218-724-9065 email: debra.k.sanders@icloud.com

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (ELCA)

1325 North 45th Avenue East, Duluth MN 55804-1507



March
Newsletter
Deadline:
February 15

Change Service Requested

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