

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

February 2020 Newsletter

From Pastor Tim

Light into darkness. In the church season called Epiphany, this is what we celebrate: God's light coming into our lives. The light of Christ has come among us, and this makes all the difference. Left on our own, we focus within ourselves, but the Light of Christ is something that comes from outside ourselves – this Light is a gift given to us - amazingly with no conditions, and with no strings attached. (What kind of a God is that!) To give expression to this, let me share a quote from Luther Seminary Professor Todd Nichol, from his book "A Study of Luther's Small Catechism for Adults," published by Augsburg-Fortress. He writes:

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed brings together what it means to have faith in God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

If all of what the Creed and Luther have said is true, but not true for you, it will make little difference in your life. That is why God does not leave it up to you. Left to yourself with the knowledge of God as creator and the story of Jesus you would not be able to believe it or entrust yourself to it.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit of God to bring you to trust this story as your own and to join you to a community of others who know the same trust. With the Scriptures in hand, Luther insisted that no exercise of your mind or effort of your will, however strenuous, can bring you to faith. To a people like us, accustomed to deciding every important question for ourselves, this is utterly shocking. But neither Bible nor Catechism will relent here. It is the work of God to bring us to faith, and the Holy Spirit is God's invincible power at work for our good.

God is irrevocably committed to gathering believers to himself. To see to that end, God intervenes in our lives without asking our permission. God chooses us and adopts us as children without relying on us to ask for it to be done. All of this saving comes through the faith that God gives.

Faith is a word for the most personal and intimate of relationships. To enter into faith is akin to falling in love. To live in faith is to entrust yourself to God's judgment on your life and to be caught up by God's causes in the world; it is to abandon yourself to a rigorous and risky way of life so taxing that even mature and life-long Christians falter when they think of it. Faith can only be experienced to be truly understood.

At the same time, faith rests on nothing of our own doing. Finally, faith is a work of God in us, reflecting the reality that we do not choose God, but that God chooses us for life, for good, forever.

There is no other aspect of Christian faith and life so difficult to understand as the conviction that God does not ask us to decide for him before making it known that God has decided for us. To learn that we are not in charge of our lives is a troubling thought; but in the end to know this is a source of great comfort and strength. It is to understand that God is earnestly for us and that we are not meant to die, but to live.

God has chosen to gather us all together here at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. God has chosen to give us his light, the light of Christ, a light more powerful than any darknesses we might experience.

Pastor Tim



February 5th is our last night of Peer Ministry this year. We are so proud of these students and all the work they've done to plan, prepare, and lead the Confirmation Retreat. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Confirmation Announcements: Lent is Coming!

Wednesday, February 5: Regular Night of Confirmation

Wednesday, February 12: Lent Planning and Preparations during Confirmation

Wednesday, February 19: No Confirmation (School Break)

Wednesday, February 26: Ash Wednesday (No Confirmation) Join us for worship for double sermon
note credit

Starting March 4: Lent Schedule

5:30 – dinner (optional)

6:00 – check in with Mentor and Small Groups (mandatory)

6:15 – worship (mandatory)

Sunday, February 2nd is our LAST Service Project Sunday for 2020! So far, Sunday School Families have been hard at work: literally feeding the hungry and clothing those in need (just like Jesus said!) Projects have included:

- Sorting and organizing donations to our Kids Clothing Drive
- Cutting and tying fleece blankets
- Packing "Breakfast to Go" and "Pancakes in a Bag" kits
- Assembling "Cold Weather Care" kits and Hygiene bags

Many of these different projects were sponsored by different **Thrivent Action Teams**. Thrivent Action Teams make it easy to live generously. It starts with a simple question: "Who can I help and how?"

Thrivent generously supports each team with free stickers, t-shirts, and \$250 to kick-start each project. All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. Benefit members are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and associate members are eligible to lead one per calendar year.

If you are a Thrivent Member – please reach out to Pastor Tim, Katie, or anyone on our Reaching Out Leadership Team and we'd be happy to help you dream of different ways you can lead your Thrivent Action Team here at Good Shepherd.





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

Christine Whitcomb, Office Manager - Christine is originally from the small southern farming town of Wells, MN. She has both an accounting and social work degree. Christine spent many summers teaching and be taught about God by many children, peers, and adults while working at Good Earth Village Bible Camp in Spring Valley, MN. She moved to Duluth in the fall of 2013 where she worked at Community Action Duluth as the Finance Director for 5 years. In her free time, Christine enjoys hiking, photography, agate hunting, time by the lake, and watching tv and movies and spending time with her family and friends. Christine is looking forward to the adventure God has called her to, here at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, where she will use her gifts and talents as the Office Manager.

WELCA - Save the Date!! Spring Gathering!

March 28th, 9:00AM-1:00PM

Grace Lutheran Church

Hermantown

WELCA MINISTRY DONATION REQUESTS

A. Fabric (clean and in good condition)

1. 100% cotton
2. Canvas
3. Denim
4. Flannel
5. Sheets

B. Thread 50 weight

1. Polyester
2. Cotton
3. Serging thread any color
4. Crochet thread size 10
5. Yarn

C. Sewing Notions

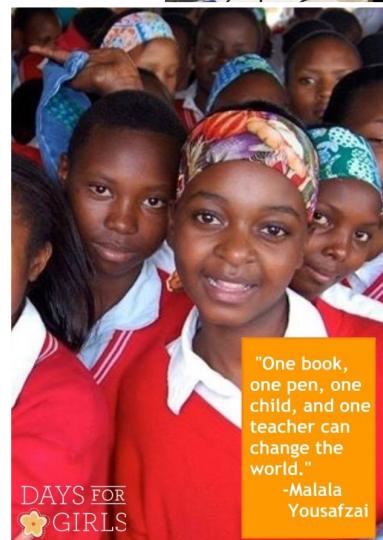
1. Rotary cutting blades
 - I. 45mm
 - II. 60mm
2. Quilting pins
3. Plastic snaps
4. Universal sewing machine needles
5. Scissors
6. Janome plastic bobbins
7. Seam rippers
8. Olaf cutting boards
9. Quilting rulers any size

D. Colored washcloths

E. Colored girls cotton panties size 7-12

F. Gallon size Ziploc bags

G. Money donations



"One book,
one pen, one
child, and one
teacher can
change the
world."
-Malala
Yousafzai

Please contact Sue Boutin if you have questions. We are so grateful for the generous support of this congregation!

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 and Debbie Sanders for her leadership of choirs! We are so blessed!



Thank you for the donations for Life House's Christmas party. We are so grateful for your support. These gifts will make the holidays special for youth who have little. We appreciate your generosity! Thank you, The staff, youth and board of Life House

Dear Friends, *"I would be on the street or under a bridge. I would be hungry and helpless if it weren't for Life House to turn to. They're there for me. They care."* -Life House youth.

Because of your support, homeless and street youth in region have somewhere to turn when they are left to fend for themselves. We received your gift of \$365 and can't thank you enough!

Amy White, Development Officer, Life House

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Thank you for your church's contributions of \$28.00 for the CHUM Food Shelf and \$44.00 for the general fund. Your gifts will allow us to continue to provide food, shelter, advocacy, and a caring community for some of Duluth's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely, Lee Stuart, Executive Director, CHUM

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Thank you for your gift of \$1,119.00, received by ELCA World Hunger. Your generous gift is enabling transformative works of love here in the United States and in 60 countries around the world, providing what is needed to end hunger and poverty: access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Together we are creatively and courageously working toward a just world where all are fed. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our neighbors around the world.

Resurrection blessings, The Rev. Robin Brown, Mission Funding Director, Congregations

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Thank you for helping us feed Northland families, children and seniors throughout the region with your gift of \$2,047.00 to our food shelf program. Your generous support allows our food shelf to provide healthy and nutritious food. In fact, it is at work right now helping our food bank distribute vital food to the 180 partner programs and 44,000 hungry people we feed throughout NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin. As you know, your contributions put meals on the table for our in-need Northland neighbors.

Sincerely, Shaye Moris, Executive Director Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Your generous gift of \$20 will fill hungry tummies and put smiles on the faces of children, seniors and families facing hunger in our region. As a child receiving food from our Backpack Program recently shared, "I know you love me because you give me food." Gifts from friends like you ensure our distribution of food through 180 food shelves, soup kitchens, shelters and our own direct service programs throughout NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin. We can't thank you enough for the tummies you've filled and the smiles you've provided to our neighbors in need.

Shaye Moris, Executive Director, Second Harvest

Sunday School Families, we will be singing in worship February 9th! "You Are the Light of the World!" There will be no Sunday School February 16 or 23 because of the school break. But... watch your mailboxes! We'll be mailing out an "at home" lesson for you to start practicing your Faith Steps at home!

Sunday School "Save the Dates"

March 1-15: Faith Step Lessons

March 22: Faith Steps Worship and Easter Egg Hunt

March 29: Easter Garden Project



All Aboard! Save the Date: VBS will be June 15-19 this year!

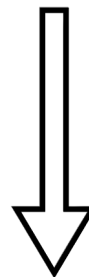
More information (including registration links and dates) coming soon!

Camp Vermilion! Camp Hiawatha! Canoe Country! Summer Camp! Family Camp!

Check your calendars and get registered! Bring a friend with you! Ask any staff here at LCGS about "camperships"!

VLM is also hiring summer staff, if you would like to know more go to **VLMcamps.org!**

Or talk with Joel Abenth at church!



Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

...In God's Great Northwoods!

Work at Camp?

Have you or someone you know ever considered spending your summer working at Camp?

A summer at camp can be a very rewarding experience that will provide real world skills, leadership opportunities, and time to grow in faith all while allowing you the opportunity to change lives and shape the future leaders of our church. Positions include counselor, assistant cook, maintenance, program coordinator, lifeguard and many more you could do as a summer staff person at Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion.

For more details and an application visit <http://www.vlmcamps.org/summer-employment>.

Summer camp registration is under way!

It is never too early to think about Summer Camp. This year we have several day and overnight camps with opportunities to learn new songs, make new friends, swim, craft and learn more about how Jesus lives in us, and with us.

You can register by visiting our Website:

<http://www.VLMcamps.org/online-registration-information>, by scanning the QR code to the right or by calling the camp office.

Remember: Early Bird registration and discount ends February 15th.



Camp Vermillion Forestry Management

As caretakers of God's great Northwoods, VLM has been working for decades to manage the woods in which we do ministry. It takes a lot of effort from volunteers, agency partners, and staff to make sure the camps are here to change the life of kids.



Our Forest Management plan addresses many parts of being caretakers:

- Safe access to our program and cabin areas.
- Fire mitigation and safe evacuation if ever needed.
- Healthy stands of northland forest.
- Wildlife habitat

VLM is working on the next stages of the plan over the next year or so.

Visit the Camp Vermillion Forestry Management Webpage, or scan the QR Code for more information.



www.VLMcamps.org • vlm@vlmcamps.org • 800-331-5148 • 218-666-5465



Camp Hiawatha, 36944 Camp Hiawatha Road, Deer River, MN

Camp Vermilion, 2555 Vermillion Camp Road, Cook MN 55723

The Endowment Fund Annual Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation are scheduled for February 9th, 2019, 9:45am There will be one more **Budget Forum on Sunday February 2nd at 10:00am in the Upper Lakeside Room.** Leading up to the Annual meeting. This is a perfect chance to discuss the 2020 budget and ask questions of the Vision Council and Budget team!

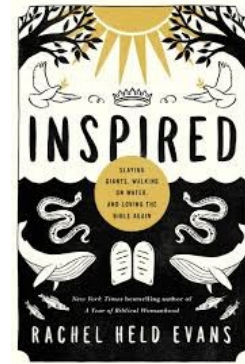
Inspired?

This fall, I invited you to read “Inspired” by Rachel Held Evans. Have you read it yet? Did you like it? Want to talk about it? Let’s have a Book Group Night!

Wednesday, February 12 at 7:30 pm

Open to Everyone! Please bring a snack or dessert to share. And, if you are able, please let me know that you’re coming so we have enough tables and chairs.

Thanks for reading with me! - Katie



THE CAMP OFFICE HAS MOVED TO DULUTH!

Join VLM to check out our new office space on Superior St in Duluth. We are just below the NEMN Synod Offices and across from First Lutheran Church.

This is a great opportunity to meet some of the staff and board members, Throughout the day we will have food and fellowship!

-7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Bakery Bites

-11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Soup and Bread

-12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. We will be answering your questions about Action Teams with Jeff Hakala of Thrivent Financial

-5 p.m. to 7 P.m. Appetizers and Bishop Tom Aitken of the NEMN Synod will be sharing samples of his home brew.

Please join us. RSVP call the office at (218) 666-5465. See you there!



PLANNING AHEAD! LENTEN SUPPER SERVING TEAMS — JOIN IN!

We are looking for people to help us with our five Soup Suppers. There will be sign up sheets in the Gathering Space if you would like to be part of a serving team.

As a member of a team, you would most likely be asked to bring a crock of soup and a loaf of bread.

Some members of the team will need to come by 5:00 PM to help set up, and some members will need to stay for clean-up after worship.

“The goal is to have the clean up done in such a way so ALL can attend worship at 6:15pm.”

Dates for soup supper are: March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1. 5:30-6:15pm

NO supper on Ash Wed. (Feb. 26) or during Holy Week.



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION STATEMENT:

A Community of Christ

Experiencing God † Reaching Out † Nurturing Faith

LCGS IS PRAYING

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

Feb 2	Shari Swenson, Jessica, Jill and Mitchell; Linda Susans; Janice Barker
Feb 9	Kim & Dan Dauner, Emma, Ian, and Charlotte; Lisa Berg; Shawn & Kim Bolf, Forrest and Carter
Feb 16	Mary Davidson, Hogan and Allie; Greg Susans; Rhonda & Brian Bolin, Emily and Luc
Feb 23	Terry & Teresa Davis; Ryan & Amy Boman, Peter & Graham



Prayer: Do not say, *"I will repay evil"; wait for the LORD, and he will help you."*

Proverbs 20:22

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@lcgssduluth.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.

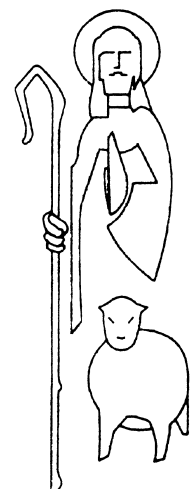
Snow Cancelations

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/lcgssduluth

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>
12/8	129	36	12/15	235	85	12/22	108	65
	<u>2:30</u>	<u>4:30</u>	<u>10:30</u>		<u>10:00</u>		<u>10:00</u>	
12/24	276	269	71	12/25	44	12/29	26	
	<u>8:45</u> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>11:00</u></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>8:45</u> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>11:00</u></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>8:45</u> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>11:00</u></td> </td></td>	<u>11:00</u>		<u>8:45</u> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>11:00</u></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>8:45</u> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>11:00</u></td> </td>	<u>11:00</u>		<u>8:45</u> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>11:00</u></td>	<u>11:00</u>
1/5	101	51	1/12	74	60	1/19	101	33



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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Duluth, MN

Place address label here.
(new postal regulations)

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

Christine Whitcomb, 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

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