

February 2021



Shepherd News

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley LCMS

801 E Denver Avenue, Bismarck ND 58504

Lent Begins...



Some of us haven't even taken down all of the Christmas lights and we are getting ready for the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday is February 17 and Easter falls on April 4 in 2021. Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension. As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well. By not using the alleluia—a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord"—until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year. Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday. This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Romans 6:1-11). This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

You are invited to join us for our special mid-week services each Wednesday at 7:00 pm beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Shepherd of the Valley will again partner with Bethel Lutheran Church as Pastors Walla, Wolfgram, and Woodside will each lead services and preach two sermons at each congregation over the six weeks. Elders of the congregation will serve a soup /sandwich supper prior to the Ash Wednesday service on February 17 at 6:00pm.

Service time at Bethel is 6:00 pm followed by Confirmation instruction (6:45) that will be led by the pastor who is not preaching at Bethel or SOTV that Wednesday.

The focus for the messages during these midweek services will be on the Epistle lessons appointed for the Sundays in Lent. Please join us during these services of somber preparation to hear God's Word, confess our sins, and receive God's refreshing pardon for all your sins.

Bethel	Shepherd of the Valley	Confirmation
Walla – Heb. 5:1-10	Wolfgram – 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10	NONE
Wolfgram – 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10	Woodside – James 1:12-18	Walla
Woodside – James 1:12-18	Walla – Romans 5:1-11	Wolfgram
Walla – Romans 5:1-11	Wolfgram – 1 Cor. 1:18-31	Woodside
Wolfgram – 1 Cor. 1:18-31	Woodside – Eph. 2:1-10	Walla
Woodside – Eph. 2:1-10	Walla – Heb. 5:1-10	Wolfgram

Help In Time Of Need

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,^[a] you did it to me.' Matthew 25:35-40

The ring of my cell phone woke me at 2:15 am on Christmas Eve morning. It was a trooper from the North Dakota Highway Patrol calling for assistance. As a chaplain with the department, most of my early morning calls are a request to assist with a death notification. This call was different. Trooper Roth was trying to find a warm place of shelter for a man whom he discovered hitch-hiking on I-94 west of Mandan. It was a bitterly cold night and Trooper Roth was concerned for the well-being of the traveler. He asked me if I knew of any shelters in Bismarck where the man would be safe from the extremely cold temperatures. He had tried to call the homeless shelter to no avail.

I informed Trooper Roth that our congregation has a benevolence fund to assist people in dire straights and offered to pay for a hotel room for the traveler. I could hear the relief in Trooper Roth's voice. I made arrangements for the room with the receptionist at a local motel and told her that I would pick up the receipt in the morning. The traveler got a warm place to stay and Trooper Roth was able to get back to assisting others in keeping our roadways safe.

Over Thanksgiving weekend we helped a scared, young mom get back to her family in Wyoming and away from a very abusive and threatening relationship in the Bismarck area. We fed her a meal, purchased a bus ticket for her, and saw to it that she was safely on board the west bound bus.

The benevolence fund goes to help people in our congregation and community in their time of great need. The benevolence fund is the focus for the first quarter of giving in 2021 for human care. One percent of offerings, plus specified gifts, go to support the important ministry as we meet the physical needs of individuals and tell them about the love of Jesus.

We are also grateful to Cashwise for their generous support of our human care ministry through their gift card program. To date, we have received nearly \$2,000 in gift cards and distributed well over \$1,000 in gift cards to persons in need.

O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good!

Pastor Wolfgram

February Acolytes

*Feb 7	Blake N. Makenna B.	815am 1045am
Feb 14	Dax L. Emma V.	815am 1045am
*Feb 21	Brekken Z. Jensen H.	815am 1045am
Feb 28	Taylor B. Daisy A.	815am 1045am





"Main Street Living North" Programs for February 2021"

Feb 7: Rev. Daniel Suelze, Wittenberg Lutheran Chapel, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message **"The Everlasting God,"** based on Isaiah 40:21-31. *"This is the Life" episode: "The Point of No Return". This color presentation discusses God's limitless Grace.*

Feb 14: Rev. Jeffrey Lee, MN North District of the LCMS, Brainerd, MN, presents the message: **"Boldly Proclaiming Jesus,"** based on 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6. *"This is the Life" episode: "Mr. Big".*

Feb 21: Rev. David Suelzle, Grace Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: **"It Just Doesn't Make Any Sense,"** based on Genesis 22:1-3. *"This is the Life" episode: Social Responsibility and Christian witness are the topics in "The Day We Lost Ella Mae".*

Feb. 28: Rev. Don Fondow, President, MN North District – LCMS, presents the message: **"A Life Worth Living ... A Savior Worth Believing,"** based on Mark 8:27-38. *"This is the Life" episode: "Out of Bondage" examines the Christian approach to alcoholism.*

Programs are broadcast starting **at 10:00 am Central Time / 9:00 am Mountain time on KBMY Xtra Channel 17.3 Dakota Media ch. 594**

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY CONGREGATION:

I wanted to send you a card to thank you all ... not only for the Christmas bags, but also for the continued support all year. Wachter Middle School is blessed to have your support. Thank you. Nichole Faul Wachter Middle School



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Our **help** is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth*
Psalm 124:8

We have closed out one chaotic year and are already one month into a new, hopefully much less chaotic, year. While so many things in this world and in our country are still unknown and uncertain, we can still rely on the certainty of Jesus our Savior as our **help** is in Him!

During the past year we saw many changes in our church building in order to provide a safe environment for gathering and worship, most of which still exist today. In addition to those, in late December, we installed an “ionizing” system in each of our seven furnaces to help cleanse the air on an ongoing basis. Over the past few months we are starting to see more and more members feel comfortable returning to in-house worship and we rejoice in that, but will also continue to provide opportunities for viewing services virtually through livestream.

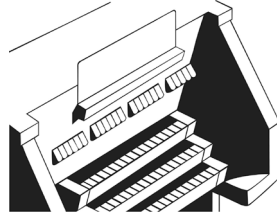
Below is a summary of the 2020 operations and operating budget for 2021. If you are interested in detailed reports of either of these reports, please let me know and I will get copies to you.

Your Brother in Christ,

Doug Hintz

Shirley and Denise would like to thank the congregation of Shepherd of the Valley for their show of appreciation. We're glad that we can serve the Lord and our congregation through music.

From the
ORGANIST



I would like to thank the congregation for your kindness not only during Christmas but throughout the year.

Dorrie

thank you!

Youth Group News

FEBRUARY 9TH- We have scheduled a *Middle School Event* for Tuesday, February 9th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. All 5th to 8th grade students from Bethel and Shepherd of the Valley are invited. Dinner will be provided and Pastor Woodside will lead a Bible Study. Additionally, the kids will also help put together Valentine's cards for our shut-ins to be mailed out the next day. RSVP to: Pastor Woodside

FEBRUARY 14TH- We have scheduled a *High School Event* for Sunday, February 14th from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. All 9th to 12th grade students from Bethel and Shepherd of the Valley are invited. Dinner will be provided and Pastor Woodside will lead a Bible Study. We will also play some games and discuss plans for future events! RSVP to: Pastor Woodside

Our Christ Care Group started in February 2005; we still meet on a regular basis with 4 of the original members still actively involved.

Members include:

Brad Kautzman - Leader

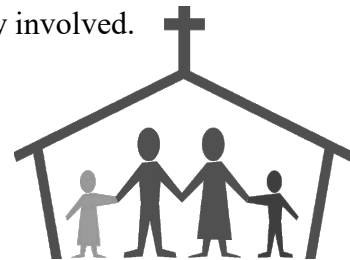
Dar Kautzman

Shelly Lockard

Leona Mittag

Cheryl Purdy

We will celebrate 16 years of learning/praying/friendships in February 2021.



The Men's Network meets the third Saturday of each month. We will meet on February 20 at Bethel Lutheran from 8:00-10:00 am. Breakfast will be served. Join us for fellowship with other men from our community and a study of The Lord's Prayer based on Luther's Large Catechism.

Men's
Bible Study



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Reagan D.	2/3
Arianna R.	2/6
Sara B.	2/8
Gavin V.	2/9
Dick D.	2/11
Anita N.	2/12
Bill P.	2/13
Jacob P. F.	2/14
Dax Lewis	2/17
Zeva B.	2/21
Miranda A.	2/21
Henry H.	2/21
Pam D.	2/22
Cindy O.	2/22
Jamie R.	2/26

THE PURPOSE OF
SHEPHERD OF THE
VALLEY LUTHERAN
CHURCH IS TO PROVIDE
SPIRITUAL NURTURE
THROUGH WORD AND
SACRAMENT, LIVE THE
FAITH AND REACH INTO
THE COMMUNITY WITH
THE GOSPEL OF JESUS
CHRIST.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Matthew K.	2/15
Norm S.	2/16
Max N.	2/20
Jesse K.	2/21
Linda H.	2/22
Corrine A.	2/23
Luella R.	2/26

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Mark & Anita N.	02/14
Jeremy & Becky G.	02/20
Norm & Clair S.	02/21

**Due to Covid-19 we are using
single prepackaged treats for
fellowship . Donations of treats or
money in basket is appreciated. It
cost around \$15 for treats and
coffee each Sunday. Thanks! Any
questions: Cathy Sitter 400-5545
or Pam Dever 391-6332.**

Stewardship.



February Elders

1-15 Marty Bjergaard
16-30 Ken Purdy



North Dakota Highway Patrol Major Tom Iverson shared insights about his vocation in law enforcement at our “Faith and Blue” event on December 13.



Youth from Bethel and Shepherd of the Valley prepared the Christmas gift bags and signed cards for Wachter students at their December 13th meeting. They also enjoyed pizza and a Bible Study led by Pastor Woodside.

