



News You Can “Ewes”

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 6

AUGUST 2016

HAPPENING NOW

- Kathy on Vacation, August 1-6
- Sunday School Training, 7 p.m., August 3
- Lifeline Screening in Fellowship Hall, 8:30 a.m., August 5
- Two-Can Sunday, August 7
- Installation of Faith Formation Leaders, August 14
- Yarn Angels, Noon, August 7
- Church Council Meeting, 7 p.m., August 9
- Blood Drive, 8 a.m.—1 p.m., August 13
- Needlework Friends, 11 a.m., August 13
- First Day of Sunday School, First Day of Confirmation, August 14
- **NEW SERVICE TIMES BEGIN, AUGUST 14**
- Ladies Night Out, 7 p.m., August 16
- Outreach Committee Meeting, Noon, August 28
- Confirmation, 12:15 p.m., August 28
- Worship Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., August 30

New Sunday Service Times

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council has been discussing the Sunday schedule for the last six months and needed and desired the congregation's participation in the conversation. Input forms submitted in July garnered 93 written responses, which we spent many hours reviewing. We found an overall affirmation for going to two services and for having a separate hour for Sunday School, Fellowship, and Small Groups. Opinions regarding worship times were much more varied, though many expressed continued support for whatever decision was made. We believe that we have made a decision that will have very positive long-term effects. The new schedule necessitates changes for everyone, so we are aware that some will be disappointed and some will be excited. We hope that member commitment to Good Shepherd and its unique Lutheran voice in the community will lead everyone to support these changes.

Beginning August 14, the new Sunday schedule will be:

8:30 a.m. – TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
9:30 a.m. – SUNDAY SCHOOL/FELLOWSHIP/SMALL GROUPS
10:45 a.m. – PRAISE SERVICE
6 p.m. – THE BRIDGE

We believe the objectives of attendance, volunteer rotation, and community building are met in the new service times. The new schedule will provide additional opportunities for member interaction. One fellowship period, rather than three, will allow for more crossover. A separate hour for education and small groups will allow for interaction in ways other than worship. Fewer worship services and one fellowship period will lighten the Sunday Servant load.

Education has always been a high priority of Lutheranism. We hope that returning to a schedule with a separate hour for educational opportunities will encourage those who have not previously participated in Sunday School or other studies to join in. Pastor Paul has also expressed enthusiasm for the chance to teach or lead discussions on Sunday mornings.

We don't want to assume that your previous Sunday Servant commitments can be automatically transferred to a new service time. We also know that some of you might like to serve in new ways. If you haven't already, please complete and return a new Sunday Servant form to Kathy Gunn in the church office as soon as possible – August 14 will be here quickly!

Change is hard. It has been hard for us and may be for members as well. Again, we believe that we have made a decision that will have very positive long-term effects for our Good Shepherd congregation. Please be prayerful in your reception of these changes. We thank you for your continued commitment to God expressed through your membership at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

New Series Begins at “The Bridge”

Starting August 1, The Bridge worship will begin a five-week series called "Five Words". Each week they'll talk about a single word: Faith, Hope, Love, Grace and Prayer. Come to worship for all or any of the upcoming Sundays at 6 p.m. as we ponder these words. There will be plenty of snacks, so come at 5:45 to hang out before worship.

June YTD Budgeted Income Summary *

Target \$344,764
Received \$306,011
Behind (\$38,752)
Percent of Target 89%

** Detailed Income and Expense reports are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. For questions, please see Mary McCoy, Treasurer, or Mike Angalet, Financial Secretary.*

** Detailed Income and Expense reports are posted on the bulletin*

Welcome Back!!

Confirmation and FX3 resume on **Sunday, August 14**. This year, the groups will start at 12:15 p.m.

Yarn Angels will meet **August 7** after the 11 a.m. service in Room 116.

Needlework Friends meets **Saturday, August 13**, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the home of Linda Rowell (114 Newcastle Walk, Woodstock) for needlework and fellowship. Bring your projects, learn something new, teach or help another friend. Knit, Crochet, Cross-stitch, Embroider, Sew, etc. Refreshments provided. Contact Linda at 770-924-4869 or larowell@bellsouth.net.

Ladies Night Out takes place at 7 p.m., **August 16** at the Riverstone Corner Bistro in Canton. Please remember that if you sign up and can't make it, to please call and cancel.

Caretakers of Community

The Cherokee County Humane Society and Our Pals Place are nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping place dogs and cats in need of loving homes in our area. As Caretakers of our Community we will be collecting the following suggested items to benefit these organizations during the month of August:

For the Animals

- Dog Toys
- Cat Toys
- Chew bones & Treats
- Rope Toys
- Squeak Balls
- Canned Food
- Cat Litter
- Towels & Blankets

Cleaning Supplies

- Garbage bags
- Bleach
- Laundry Detergent
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Paper Towels
- Instant Hand Sanitizer

Please leave your donations in the area designated in the church entryway. Thank you!



Two-Can Sunday

Don't forget to bring your two cans of food for our hunger initiatives on Sunday, August 7!

Sunday School Resumes

August 14 at 9:30 a.m.!

The moment you have all been waiting for is almost here! Sunday School for ages 3 through High School, yes you did read correctly, High School, as well as Adult classes will start on August 14. Sunday School is sometimes mistakenly thought to only involve young children, but our faith journey as Lutherans goes throughout our entire lives, so our education should as well. We are thrilled to be able to add back a high school class as well as three adult classes. Fellowship Hall will be open for truly just Fellowship and we have opened up a couple extra classrooms if small groups or other classes would like to meet. Please see Janice Swinford, Sunday School Superintendent, if you would like to book a room at any time, since she will be coordinating room availability. Let Janice know if you have any questions.

Join FX3!

FX3 stands for Faith, Fun and Friends and is made up of our 4th & 5th grade youth. We meet approximately every other Sunday (in conjunction with the Confirmation Program schedule) for fellowship, service projects, fun outings, and conversation. It is a great way for youth to meet and get to know each other, especially as they come together in Confirmation during their 6th, 7th & 8th grade years.

FX3 meets downstairs in the Middle School Sunday School room, from 12:15 p.m.—2 p.m. We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, or wish more information, please contact our FX3 Leader, Karen Epstein, at kblumepstein@gmail.com

Come Sing with the Shepherd' Choir

Did you enjoy singing the songs at VBS? Do you like to learn new songs and praise God with music? If you are in grades K-5 then please join us every Wednesday evening from 5:30—6 beginning August 31! The Shepherds Choir will sing about once a month at different morning services. We will join with the adult choir on occasion and sing at the nursing home in December.

Please return this form to Denise Kelly or Thomas Eisnor if you are interested! Denise 219-367-1890

Singer's Name _____

Singer's Grade/Age _____

Singer's Name _____

Singer's Grade/Age _____

Singer's Name _____

Singer's Grade/Age _____

Parents _____

Best Email for communication _____

Best Phone number(s) to TEXT to _____



Above, the VBS Class of 2016. Right, Deborah was the leader of the recreation station. She even got in on the water balloon tossing fun. Below, Pastor Paul must have learned how to hang 10 on his recent trip to Hawaii....looking good.



Surf Shack was a Success!!

Children and volunteers alike had a wonderful week catching the wave of God's Amazing Love at the Surf Shack, also know as Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School. There were 83 registered children, 23 members children and 60 non-member. We had 30 volunteers throughout the week and we raised \$159.95 for the ELCA Refugee and Immigration Program. Christ the King Lutheran Church in Norcross deserves a special thank you as they donated many of our decorations. Thanks everyone who made VBS a success again this year!

Bishop School 2016 by Taylor Epstein

Going into Bishop's School, I had absolutely no idea what to expect--I didn't know that I'd make incredible new friendships and strengthen my relationship with God in ways I didn't know were possible.

Bishop's School was established in 1992 and is offered to High School aged youth within Region 9 – ELCA. Its' location changes each year, as do the adult staff who participate. This year, it was held at Luther Springs in Hawthorne, Florida and the key staff member was Dr. Hans Wiersma, who is an Associate Professor at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. Participants this year were mostly Juniors and Seniors, although one member of the group was a Sophomore, and they represented the Florida / Bahama Synod, SC Synod, SE Synod, and NC Synod.



Above—Participants in this year's Bishop School. GSLC member, Taylor Epstein, is pictured 6th from right in the 2nd row.

The main theme for the week was "Why is there evil and suffering in the world?" which caused us teenagers to ask hard questions and delve deeper than we've ever gone into our faith. Dr. Wiersma made us really contemplate all of the bad things happening in the world and put ourselves in those peoples' shoes. We focused a lot on theodicies, or ways to explain all of this evil in the world. We talked about what to say, and, what maybe not to say, when someone goes through tragedy by taking a more in depth look at the book of Job. Comparing how others react to one's tragedy to how Job's friends reacted to all of his tragedies really made me understand that sometimes when people go through terrible and awful things, just sitting and being there for them is the best thing. We also asked where God was amidst all this evil. Did He cause it? Was this punishment? Or does He not control this evil? Because of the gift of free will, is all the suffering caused by a human's act of terror? Or do we as humans need to experience some bad to appreciate the good? These are some of the hard questions that we as a group tried to answer. We came to the conclusion that we may never know, but we do know that when we do suffer, God is with us every step of the way.

By going through this experience I know that I grew much closer to God and made some great friends in the process. I'd recommend Bishop's School to any youth that wants to be able to have detailed and in-depth conversations about his or her own faith and issues in the modern world that may be considered touchy subjects, in a safe environment. If I could, I'd go back to that week in a heartbeat.

Council Notes July 2016

Discussions

- Financial Secretary, Mike Angalet, reported that June giving was approximately 79% of budget, however, we are still \$39,000 behind budgeted income.
- Appointed Treasurer, Mary McCoy reported that expenses were slightly below budgeted figures.
- After reviewing the input provided by members of the congregation, the council voted to revise Sunday morning worship / education offerings to two worship services, with an hour between for fellowship / Sunday School / small groups. Service times will be as follows: 8:30am traditional and 10:45 praise service, with the education hour to be held at 9:30am, beginning August 14.

Accolades

- Mike McCoy, Tim Ferg, Gina Crittenden, and Carrie Escamilla for their time and leadership during the Middle School mission trip to Savannah.
- Tony Endozo, Marc Duclos, Michael Epstein, Mary McCoy, and Scarlett Hovda for their time and leadership during the High School mission trip to Washington, DC.
- Patrick Swinford, Max Epling, Jaime Escamilla, Al Reynolds, Jennifer Taylor, Will Jayroe, Damon Garges, Michael McCoy, Adrian Escamilla, Mike McCoy, and Sebastian Escamilla who helped move furniture, repair and paint the walls of the classrooms in the education wing. Special thanks to Steve Ebert for getting a special discount for the paint.

Blood Drive

Good shepherd Lutheran church hosts a Blood Drive on **Saturday, August 13** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Be sure to sign up to give blood!

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

1208 ROSE CREEK DRIVE
WOODSTOCK, GA 30189
770-924-7286
GSLUTHERAN.ORG



AN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA) CONGREGATION SERVING NORTH COBB AND CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMUNITIES. JOIN US!

8 A.M. TRADITIONAL

9:30 A.M. PRAISE

11 A.M. TRADITIONAL

6 P.M. "THE BRIDGE" - CONTEMPORARY, LAID-BACK
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 A.M.

"WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, THEREFORE,
AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU."

ROMANS 15:7

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES PEOPLE OF ANY AGE, RACE, NATIONALITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, LIFE CIRCUMSTANCE, AND PHYSICAL OR MENTAL CAPABILITY.

Sunday School and Bible Study Opportunities

Tuesday Lunch and Learn resumes on August 16. Contact Margaret Mixon for details. This group meets in the library at noon. Bring a lunch and be ready to discuss!

Thursday Bible Study continues its study of "Exodus" weekly at 10 a.m. This group, led by Pastor Paul, meets in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday Small Groups for Adults (all at 9:30 a.m.):

Faith Stories led by Mary Tucker
Coffee & Conversation led by Lori Peters
Church Chat led by Paul Baumgartner
Adult Sunday School led by Jim Cady
Men in Mission led by Jaime Escamilla



GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH