



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Spring 2018

We shall **KNOW** Jesus as our Lord, **GROW** in our faith, and **SHOW** Christ's love to our world.

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Music Ministry: Anna Scott Secretary: Angela Friggstad

PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

Abiding Presence:

One of the strong memories of growing up on the farm include watching my father attending to the animals in the spring birthing season. Whether it was caring for the cattle or the pigs or newly hatched chicks, my dad would provide an abiding vigil and then follow through with the new births. A special time was when a mare gave birth to a colt. I fondly recall the extra abiding pride which my dad gave to the horses.

Jesus speaks of this attitude and action of consistent vigilance in:

John 15:9-10

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; **abide** in my love.

¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will **abide** in my love,

just as I have kept my Father's commandments and **abide** in his love.

The Old English word "abide" signifies to "await," "remain," "lodge," "sojourn," "dwell," "continue," "endure".

This would be part of the animal husbandry which had my dad stay up late at night and then attend in the early morning so he could await, sometimes dwell in the barns and ensure a safe birth. I see this being related to the sustaining presence which Jesus ultimately provides for us. With the earth images of shepherding or gardening Jesus assures us that he wants to abide in us. Jesus also invites us to abide and rely upon him. He uses as gardening theme as he teaches:

John 15:4

Abide in me as I **abide** in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it **abides** in the vine, neither can you unless you **abide** in me.

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who **abide** in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

John uses the word 'abide' 43 times throughout the books of John, 1 John, and 2 John. It is used as an assurance, a command, a warning, an invitation to a deeper love relationship, and as an exhortation to godly living. The word abide carries the idea of continuing, enduring, awaiting, dwelling, and withstanding firm and immovable without yielding.

Abide in Christ - the source of love and life.

In the word abide I see the same call to live with and for God that I have seen throughout the Bible. A loving and awesome God calls His people to relationship with Him. As we abide in that relationship God promises that we will experience His faithful love, have an intimate relationship with Him and grow in awareness and service in His Kingdom..

Abide is both a call and a command. In order to fully experience our relationship with God, we are given the call to live as Christ lived. This includes receiving the power of his love so we can genuinely love one another, remaining faithful to the truth of the gospel, and safe from any evil.

"Abiding in Christ" is another way to express our commitment to care and serve God. This commitment is borne out in the faith that we love and abide, because he first loved and abides in us. May you rejoice in the new season of spring and rebirth. What a gift to know that we live in the hope as you Our hearts become His dwelling place and His ours.

To "abide" is to experience every moment in the very source of life and love - Christ.

Prayer:

Almighty God, you provide

the true bread from heaven, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant that we who have received

the Sacrament of his body and blood

may abide in Him and He in us,

that we may be filled with

the power of his endless life,

now and forever. Amen

NEWS AND EVENTS @ GOOD SHEPHERD

Thank you to all who helped make our sold-out **Take A Getaway** fundraiser a success! We enjoyed a fine evening of music, a delicious meal and trivia. Thank you to all who attended and donated silent auction items and gift cards! **\$3500 was raised to build up the Celebration Fund!**
Thank you for your generosity!

FINANCIAL MATTERS

One month left in 2017 and Good Shepherd's financial crew are already starting to look forward to putting 2018 numbers together.

We made good progress in the financial needs of Good Shepherd this past month but will still need approximately \$25,000 to balance the books at the end of this year.

Should you wish to make a special or extra donation to Good Shepherd it can be designated to the Celebration Fund. The funds in this account are used for the various upgrades and improvements to the church building. Several items have been identified to be improved in 2018.

Have a blessed Christmas and take advantage of all the great services offered at Good Shepherd this time of year.

Your servant,
Joan Meyer, Treasurer



MUSIC NOTES

Thanks to the choir for singing and taking part many of the Lent and Holy Week services. Thanks to the accompanists- Carol Brandt, Lori Sly and Angela Friggstad who played for the choir this winter. The choir sang for the Inter-Lutheran service on March 21st, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and the joyful Easter Sunday! The hand bell players also took part in the services playing 'Near the Cross' and joining the choir for 'At the Table'. Also, thanks to those who helped with lights, PowerPoint and sound for the Lent services to assist the choir- we appreciate your help!

I would also like to thank the band leaders and band members for their music this term and throughout the year. They put in a lot of time choosing and preparing music for Sunday worship. Thanks also to Joel Burns, Elke Mau, Leah Zepick, Maria Himbeault, Kieran Friggstad and Evan Sereda who have contributed to the music by playing along with the hymns. The additional brass and horns sound wonderful! Thank you!

The bands will continue leading music until the end of June and in the summer the music will shift more towards hymns led by the piano. Of course, instrumentalists are always welcome to play along so please contact Anna if you are available to play on a certain Sunday!

The choir welcomes back accompanist Cheryl Mercier for our spring season. We are working on music to sing at Luther Heights on Sunday, May 29th at 7:00pm. One time change is that choir moves to a WEDNESDAY MAY 9th instead of Thursday May 10th.

Thurs. May 3rd- Practice at 7pm (kids choir at 6:40)

WED. MAY 9th- 7:00pm (*instead of Thurs. May 10th*)

Thurs. May 17th- Practice at 7pm (kids choir at 6:40)

Thurs. May 24th- LAST Practice at 7pm (kids choir at 6:40)

Sunday May 27th- Sing at Luther Heights - 7pm

Otherwise Watch the bulletin and posters for a choral service or more times the choir will be singing at Good Shepherd! Practices continue to be Thursday evenings at 7:00pm with Kids Chorus before at 6:40pm. We have two joint songs to sing with the kids sometime this spring.

Also- if you have favorite hymns you would like to sing at church please let me know your hymn requests!

Psalm 100- Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord all the Earth!

Calling for ART for the Celebration Calendar: We are looking for 12 more pictures for the next celebration calendar for the 2018-2019 school year. Please submit pictures to the office. Note- they will be black and white so pen/markers work best. Also- please check the draft copy of the celebration calendar to make sure your birthday or anniversary days are correct before we re-print copies for the fall.





CMT UPDATE

Transition Committee Update

As has been announced, Pastor Harley will be retiring in 2019. To facilitate this change for our church family, the Transition Committee was formed at our last Annual General Meeting and it will report to the CMT. Its membership consists of Cam Broten, Nathan Elke, Nathaniel Gibson and Joan Meyer. This committee is not the Call Committee, but rather is intended to lay the groundwork for the work of the Call Committee.

On March 13, 2018, a congregational meeting was held with Bishop Sid Haugen. About 30 people were in attendance. We discussed the transition process, the role of the synod, the role of the congregation and potential transition scenarios. It was a very constructive and helpful gathering. Nathaniel Gibson opened the meeting with the following prayer, which nicely captures our approach and desire as we embark on this transition:

“Heavenly Father,

As we gather here this evening we give you thanks for all those in attendance and we give you thanks for Good Shepherd, this community of faith where so many have found their home.

With our focus on the future, we take a moment to acknowledge all of the good work that has happened in and through this community in the past and we give thanks for your faithfulness throughout.

May this gathering be a time of fruitful dialogue and fellowship as we come together with Bishop Sid to discuss the transition to our next chapter of life together. Thinking about this transition we admit that we are often people averse to change. We are tempted to cling to that which is comfortable and predictable instead of venturing out into that which is unknown. In the midst of this let us be reminded that you are a God who is ever faithful and ever present and always leading your people out of the comfortable, into the unknown, and home to new and bright beginnings.

And as we begin this journey together may we always be led by Him who's journey we remember this Lenten season. The One who's journey led Him out of the comforts of Galilee, towards the chaos of Jerusalem and eventually to the end from which all of our new beginnings flow.

We pray all of this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen"

In the coming months the Transition Committee will be working with the CMT, Pastor Harley and the congregation. We will be mapping out the transition timeline and engaging with the congregation. We will work to keep you informed. If you have any questions or comments to share, please feel free to approach one of the committee members. We ask for your ongoing prayers for guidance and wisdom. We give thanks for Pastor Harley's service and trust that God has great things in store for our church family as we begin this new chapter.

Greetings CMT,

I am reporting on behalf of the fundraising committee of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Our committee consists of Karen Linsley, Angela Friggstad, Karena Berggren, Kara Tucker, Jocelyn Harvey and Dre Calow.

On Sunday April 22nd we hosted our first ever Good Shepherd Lutheran steak night. This event was held at the Somewhere Else Pub Bar and Grill. Our goal for this event was to sell out by selling 120 tickets. And we accomplished this! The tickets were sold out 1 week prior to the event. Each ticket was \$25.00 per person which included a steak or chicken dinner, entertainment, silent auction, gift card raffle and a fun trivia game!

In conversation with many of the guests it was determined that the event was a great success! It was a great night that people of all ages enjoyed.

Our totals profits for the event were as follows:

Ticket Sales after costs: \$1,400

Raffle Tickets: \$1,100

Silent Auction: \$1,000

Total profit for the evening: **\$3,500**

Our committee was very happy with how the event went. We were excited that the event sold out and there were still people looking for tickets the day of the event. The committee will be meeting in the near future to talk about our next fundraising event that will happen before the of the year. (2018)

We are very much open to feedback. Please let us know if you have further questions or concerns. It was brought to our attention that people are interested in what we are fundraising for. If the CMT could please tell us an amount that we are looking to raise and to what it is going towards that would be helpful in marketing our next event.

Thanks so much,
Karen Linsley on behalf of the Fundraising Committee.



**WE PUT THE
FUN
IN FUNDRAISING**

Update and Invitation with Doctor of MIN program (DMin)

“When Jesus was at table with them, he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and began to give it to them.” Luke 24: 30

Dear friends in Christ,

With the short verse above, I invite you to consider a next step in an important journey. You have approved your pastor in the pursuit of a Doctor of Ministry degree. Central to this study is determining a research project. In earlier discussion with our leadership team and also with approval from academic supervisors, I am happy to inform you that the research direction has been authorized. There are still some adjustments and protocol to await, but I wanted our congregation to gain a sense of the direction of my studies. Hence, I provide the following:

Proposed Project:

Project Goal: The goal of this study is to explore the significance of how Holy Communion impacts personal faith development.

Summary statement: As we reflect on the influence of Holy Communion, I believe our personal expression and collective witness can be enhanced. Within the proposed title of *“Table Matters”* I endeavor to research how our current practice of every Sunday Holy Communion has influenced congregational members, and their identification with the ministry of Christ.

Please consider adding your insights through an ‘Appreciative Inquiry’ group discussion. This will provide all members with an opportunity to share their views and understanding of Holy Communion. Two sessions are being considered: one in the spring and again offered in early September. In addition, two other methods of receiving your opinions will be provided:

- 1) Congregational survey. Everyone is asked to contribute to this short but meaningful survey. An online form is prepared, and a paper copy will be made available.
- 2) Personal questionnaire and spoken interviews. This process of information gathering will be open to all who want to contribute. A sign-up sheet will be made available. We are hoping a diverse and broad spectrum of our community participate.

For all of the above, the Doctoral program has instituted a process of privacy and confidentiality. Copies of this important ‘Ethics Protocol’ statement will be made available in our next Newsletter.

Thank you for your interest, care, prayers and involvement in this important congregational endeavor.

Blessings abound as we continue to fulfill our mission to;

Know, Grow and Show the Love of Christ.

Gathered and sent in the breaking of the bread.

Peace, Harley J

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Thank-You Sunday School

On behalf of NEST I would like to say Thank-you to Good Shepherd Sunday School for choosing NEST to receive their offering from this past year. Also, Thank -you to the Sunday School teachers for sharing what it means to be a refugee and some of the challenges faced when arriving in a new country.

Twenty years ago, members from United and Lutheran Churches here in Saskatoon met and decided they wanted to do something to assist refugees to settle here in Saskatoon. Nineteen years ago, Margaret Achire was the 1st refugee to be welcomed to Saskatoon. Margaret is originally from South Sudan and lived for many years in a Kenyan refugee camp. In March of 2018 we welcomed our most recent group, a family of four, also from Sudan, who arrived from Egypt. This was a family reunification for Ebtsam Elsheikh, who lives in Saskatoon and is active member of NEST. Families have been welcomed from Iraqi, Columbia, Sudan, Afghanistan & many others countries.

The main mandate for NEST is to assist single parent families headed by women, but is not always the case, it can also be the reuniting of families. If you visit the NEST web page you will find an article regarding GSL Sunday School project, which shows the "nest" offering plate that was used over this past year and was displayed at our April 29th service. Once again Thank you to Good Shepherd Sunday School for your kindness and caring.

Regards,
Elaine Carter

Hello Good Shepherd Family,

We did it! Another successful Sunday School year!

Our kick off for the 2017/2018 year started with 35 enthusiastic children all ready to participate and learn from our creative leaders.

Our Christmas pageant combining the children and the Good Shepherd choir was a unique and refreshing endeavour; thank you to Anna Scott for her commitment and thank you to Karena Berggren for helping Anna work between both groups.

We took the time to kick off our second half with a mini VBS " Getting Smore of Jesus." The kids enjoyed crafts and games camping indoors and forgetting about the cold outdoors. A warm thank you to the confirmation families who took a large portion of the instruction and leadership with the kids. The children were engaged by the youth as they teach stories they once were taught themselves.

We have "graduated" three Grade 6 students this year. A congratulations to Gracie Sowers, Michael Sofko Husy, and Alton Ewaskow.

Our program continues to grow, and the strength and commitment from all our leaders and teachers make it the success it is. If any parent or congregation member would like to inquire about time or talent they could contribute to keep the programming fresh, please contact the office.

Have a great spring,

Sunday School Team

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 7th – 10th
Splash Canyon

Give thanks for another opportunity of Vacation Bible School! August 7th is our chosen start date! We'll be starting to take in registrations later this month. The early bird price will be \$25 and \$30 the week of VBS. Come join us on a wild ride to Splash Canyon this Summer as we learn all about God's promises!



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEBSITE

Good Shepherd is looking for someone to take charge of the website and keep things up to date. The website uses web-builder and there would be training if required. Please contact the church office if you would be willing to serve in this way.

PARISH NURSING

A **Parish Nursing Information Forum** will be held at **St. John's Anglican Parish Hall, 416 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon on Thursday, May 30, 2018 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** (registration begins at 6:30 p.m.). This is an inter-church event and is open to anyone interested in exploring the role of the Church in health and healing. A panel will discuss the role of the Parish Nurse in the life and mission of the congregation. For more information or to register, contact Mona at 306 978 1951, Elaine at 306 652-4524, or E-mail: p.nursing@sasktel.net.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CALLS TO ACTION

Our Church Management Team has made the commitment to print all of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. They will be printed weekly in our Sunday bulletins until we have printed them all. These are the Calls to Action that were printed since the last newsletter:



In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission makes the following calls to action.

Legacy

Language and Culture

13. We call upon the federal government to acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights
14. We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:
 - i. Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.
 - ii. Aboriginal language rights are reinforced by the Treaties.
 - iii. The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal-language revitalization and preservation.
 - iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.
 - v. Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages.
15. We call upon the federal government to appoint, in consultation with Aboriginal groups, an Aboriginal Languages Commissioner. The commissioner should help promote Aboriginal languages and report on the adequacy of federal funding of Aboriginal-language initiatives.
16. We call upon post-secondary institutions to create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages.
17. We call upon all levels of government to enable residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system by waiving administrative costs for a period of five years for the name-change process and the revision of official identity documents, such as birth certificates, passports, driver's licenses, health cards, status cards, and social insurance numbers.

Health

18. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.
19. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to establish measurable goals to identify and close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and to publish annual progress reports and assess long-term trends. Such efforts would

focus on indicators such as: infant mortality, maternal health, suicide, mental health, addictions, life expectancy, birth rates, infant and child health issues, chronic diseases, illness and injury incidence, and the availability of appropriate health services.

20. In order to address the jurisdictional disputes concerning Aboriginal people who do not reside on reserves, we call upon the federal government to recognize, respect, and address the distinct health needs of the Métis, Inuit, and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples.
21. We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.
22. We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.
23. We call upon all levels of government to:
 - i. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field.
 - ii. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities.
 - iii. Provide cultural competency training for all healthcare professionals.
24. We call upon medical and nursing schools in Canada to require all students to take a course dealing with Aboriginal health issues, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, and Indigenous teachings and practices. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Justice

25. We call upon the federal government to establish a written policy that reaffirms the independence of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to investigate crimes in which the government has its own interest as a potential or real party in civil litigation.
26. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to review and amend their respective statutes of limitations to ensure that they conform to the principle that governments and other entities cannot rely on limitation defences to defend legal actions of historical abuse brought by Aboriginal people.
27. We call upon the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal– Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.
28. We call upon law schools in Canada to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and antiracism.
29. We call upon the parties and, in particular, the federal government, to work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to have disputed legal issues determined expeditiously on an agreed set of facts.
30. We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.

31. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.
32. We call upon the federal government to amend the Criminal Code to allow trial judges, upon giving reasons, to depart from mandatory minimum sentences and restrictions on the use of conditional sentences.
33. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to recognize as a high priority the need to address and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and to develop, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, FASD preventive programs that can be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner.
34. We call upon the governments of Canada, the provinces, and territories to undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to better address the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including:
 - i. Providing increased community resources and powers for courts to ensure that FASD is properly diagnosed, and that appropriate community supports are in place for those with FASD.
 - ii. Enacting statutory exemptions from mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for offenders affected by FASD.
 - iii. Providing community, correctional, and parole resources to maximize the ability of people with FASD to live in the community.
 - iv. Adopting appropriate evaluation mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of such programs and ensure community safety.
35. We call upon the federal government to eliminate barriers to the creation of additional Aboriginal healing lodges within the federal correctional system.
36. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.
37. We call upon the federal government to provide more supports for Aboriginal programming in halfway houses and parole services.
38. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.
39. We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.
40. We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.
41. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:
 - i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.
 - ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.

VOLUNTEER OPPURTUNITY

Luther Towers has moved the Sunday worship to 2pm. Volunteers needed to assist seniors to attend. Contact Luther Towers if interested.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Pastor Munyengetero Mtata upon convocating with his Masters of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon. Munyengetero was also awarded the following scholarships: The Augustana Scholarship, the Rev. John G. Lokken Scholarship, and the Buck/ Kleiner/ Uitti Scholarship.



WHAT'S ONLINE?

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has an active Facebook group. Follow this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/194172144439/> and 'request' to "Join" this group so that you will receive the updates as they are posted. You can help us by "sharing" our events on your own page to increase the visibility of our events with your friends. Check us out! Write a post! "Like" us! It is another way that we can stay connected when we are going in all different directions.

Have you checked out our new website at www.goodshepherdsaskatoon.ca We will be working hard to start keeping the website up to date with new events coming to Good Shepherd. Please use it as a source of information and to watch any services you have missed.

JOIN US AT



VBS 2018 at REDEEMER LUTHERAN

July 23—27 9:00am—noon

Ages 4 (by Jan.31/19) to entering Gr.7 this fall

Registration for Redeemer VBS 2018 is open now!

This year's VBS theme will be *Rolling River Rampage* where we will go deep into how big God's love is for us. VBS will be held from July 23 - July 27, 2018, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, and is open to children aged 4 (by January 31, 2019) to entering grade 7 this fall.

Registration is \$25 per child.

Spots are limited, and the deadline for registration is Friday, July 13, 2018. No walk-in registrations will be accepted.

Contact us at redemervbs@sasktel.net or 306-374-7585.

Registration form available at redeemersaskatoon.ca