

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church ELCA

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holy-shepherd.org

To the family of...

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH



April 2024

A Change of Plans...

Most of you know that I am deep into my second year of the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program, a professional growth opportunity for Indiana pastors made possible by the Lilly Endowment. I have gathered with, and will continue to gather with a cohort of pastors to do in-depth study of many different topics that affect quality of life here in Indiana. The time to study and reflect has been a gift, and I continue to pray for clarity on which of the many, many ideas I've come across are the right fit to help Holy Shepherd be a blessing to our community.



A highlight of this past year was our trip to the US-Mexico border at McAllen, Texas and Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Being there in person and seeing the situation up close brought a level of insight I could not hope to have gained by studying the situation from afar. Many of you joined me for my presentation on this eye-opening trip.

Our plan for this year was to travel to Ireland and explore the ways that country has been teaching about dealing with trauma in the wake of extended periods of violence. At our most recent gathering, however, our director informed us there has been a change of plans. We are no longer traveling to Ireland. We will be going to the West African nation of Ghana instead.

We will be studying the traditions of storytelling among the various cultures in Ghana and assessing how those practices can tell an alternative story to the prevailing view of things. In my mind, there is a clear parallel to Jesus' ministry. Jesus did a lot of storytelling to counter the prevailing views of how the world worked and what God's priorities were. He called this alternative view the kingdom of God.

I am hopeful that this experience can help me continue to hone and expand my skills as a pastor and deepen my faith as a fellow Christian. I also have the sense that simply experiencing a country so distinctly different than the United States will expand my horizons, widen my perspective, and hopefully provide some great preaching material along the way.

I would ask for everyone's prayers for safe travels and that the Holy Spirit will open my eyes and my heart to what God needs me to see in West Africa this fall.

In Christ,
Pastor Eric

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Easter Egg Hunt **2**
- Council News **3**
- Off-Site Service Team
- Major Mission Financials **4**
- April's Collection Birthdays **5**
- Confirmation Class Psalm **6**
- Seeking Parish Administrator **7**
- First Communion Music Department
- VBS: Help Wanted
- Rummage Sale Update **8**

INSERT

CALENDAR
&
WORSHIP ASSISTANT
SCHEDULE

MISSION STATEMENT

To fulfill our mission as Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, we...

Trust in God for guidance and support,
Thank God in word and deed,
Teach the good news of Jesus, and
Tend those inside and outside the flock,

Because the Holy Spirit...

Ties us closer to God and to one another, and
Transforms us into devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Cancellation of Rummage Sale

Unfortunately, we regret to inform our members and friends that we have decided to cancel our spring rummage sale, but it's necessary due to scheduling conflicts.

We understand that this news may be disappointing, and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused. Thank you for your understanding.



Holy Shepherd's Easter Egg Hunt

We were blessed with a cool but very sunny Easter morning! The church was filled to the brim for both our Easter Sunday services. The children's excitement for our Easter Egg Hunt following our 10am service was a delightful spectacle to witness! Eyes widened with excitement as they gathered their share of the 2000 eggs that were scattered about the church grounds! To all who generously donated to our Easter egg hunt, your contributions made the event truly spectacular. Your kindness and generosity helped create smiles, laughter, and unforgettable memories for our children and families. We extend our deepest thanks for your support. You've made Easter even more special for everyone involved.

CHILDREN: We have two GOLDEN EGG prizes in the church office still awaiting their winners! Children should search their eggs to see if there's a special message inside one of them! If there is, come and claim your prize!



Easter Appetizers in the Narthex

We want to thank the PrimeTimers for their thoughtful gesture in providing appetizers Easter morning. Your contribution added a delicious touch to our celebration and made the morning even more enjoyable for everyone.

Your generosity and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated, and we are grateful to have you as part of our Easter festivities.



Seeking Parish Administrator

Holy Shepherd is a vibrant congregation in a fast-growing area of Northwest Indiana. We are seeking a parish administrator with a deep love of God and the church, excellent people skills and top notch organization. This position would be primarily in person during the work week with the possibility of negotiating some remote work hours. The staff member would work alongside the pastor, music director, clerical assistant, and director of congregational life. See job description for compensation and contact information using the link in Wednesday's mid-week, or pick up a copy available in the church office.



First Communion on Maundy Thursday



Student, Konrad, was ready and excited to receive his First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28, during our 7pm service. A reception followed the service.



Music Department



Here's hoping your Lent and Easter seasons were relaxing and enjoyable and blessed with God's everlasting love. We are coming to the end of the music season already. We have enjoyed singing and ringing to enhance our worship services.

Next season there will be some changes in the music program. Hopefully with some new additions. Be attentive to these changes. The choirs appreciate the congregation's support and so do I.

Blessings on your summer. may it be relaxing and full of blessings for all of you.

Mr. Bob

Needed: VBS Volunteers



To continue offering our traditional robust VBS program, we're currently looking for a crew of volunteers who are enthusiastic, creative, and dedicated to making a positive impact on the children who will be participating.

Holy Shepherd's goal is to foster a sense of camaraderie among volunteers creating opportunities for them to bond and have fun together, while also providing the opportunity to make a positive impact on children's lives.

Please prayerfully consider being part of our VBS team. Look for more information in the coming days ahead.

Confirmation Class

In confirmation class, students wrote down things in their life that seemed broken or caused them suffering, then laid those things on the cross. The cross shows us that God has experienced suffering and can understand us when we suffer. The cross shows us that God can take our suffering and put it to work for God's purposes. The cross teaches us that it is in the moments when we feel most lost that God is most with us. It was a powerful moment for all of us who shared it.



Psalm 133

Refrain

God of love and mercy, bring peace to all your people.



Verse 1

How good when all the earth is one,
And hearts embrace community;
When strife will cease to separate
And love binds all in unity. *(Refrain)*

Verse 2

As oil anointed Aaron's head
And dew adorns the mountainside.
So peace and blessing of the Lord,
Within the faithful heart abide. *(Refrain)*



We are just celebrating Easter, the season of Alleluias; and spring, which echoes the message of new life coming out of the "dead" of winter.

We have put away the purple and decked the sanctuary with white. Our prayers and hymns have turned from mourning to joy.

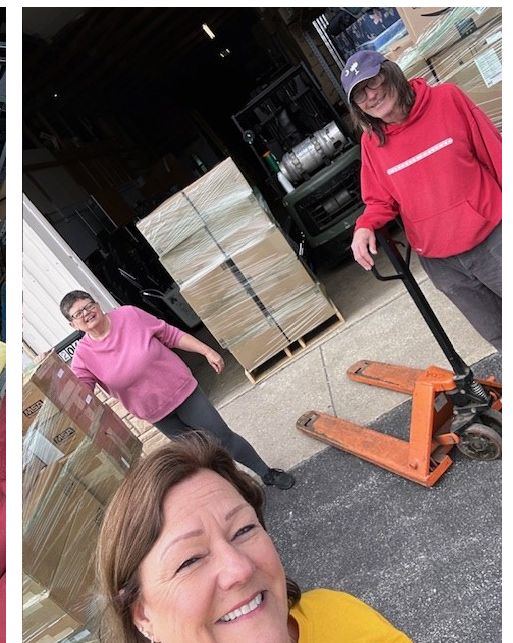
Easter is the season of transformation --- of being changed!

Change is constant in our own lives and in our life together as Holy Shepherd. We share the news that not only is our Office Administrator Wendy Bartlett retiring, but so is Janet Bates, who has served as our Custodian for many years.

We thank them both for their faithful ministry with us and are planning a celebration potluck. Listen for announcements of the date and details, and join in honoring Wendy and Janet and praying God's blessings on their next chapter.

Holy Shepherd's Off-Site Service Team Partnered with Hearts in Motion on March 15th

We want to thank Nancy, Jim and Kimm for their hands-on effort in helping such a worthy cause. And thank you also to Kimm for her willingness to take and share photos of so many of our events!



Deadline for Newsletter Articles

Please have articles for May's newsletter submitted by April 15 using the church email address: hslc@sbcglobal.net.

Major Mission Emphasis April - June 2024

Your donations for this quarter will assist Lutheran Disaster Response Teams. In the aftermath of tornadoes, Lutheran Disaster Response works with ELCA synods, social ministry organizations and community-based groups to support local responses. Together they accompany impacted communities through disaster case management, construction management, providing relief supplies and addressing other unmet needs. 100% of your "U.S. Tornadoes" donation will be used to assist those affected by tornadoes. Please use a pew envelope to support this mission, making sure to check "Major Mission" on the envelope. *Please make checks payable to Holy Shepherd.*



Collection for April



As we come together to support our community, we invite you to join us in making a meaningful impact through our local St. John Township Community Center Food Bank. Every day, families and individuals in our area face the harsh reality of food insecurity and struggle to put nutritious meals on their tables. By contributing to our local food bank, you can directly alleviate hunger and provide hope to those in need. Your donation, whether big or small, can make a significant difference in someone's life. Your generosity can help with the purchase of these non-perishable items: canned potatoes, canned meat (chicken, tuna, spam), oatmeal, sugar, canned fruits, juices, salt, cookies, crackers, unopened paper goods, paper towels, toilet tissue, and facial tissue, grocery gift certificates, laundry detergent and household cleaning items. Please place your purchased items in the cubby area of the Opportunity Table in the narthex throughout April.

CHURCH FINANCIALS

Members can view our church financial report by:

- Viewing our emailed version of our monthly newsletter.
(Let the office know if you'd like to receive an emailed copy.)
- Viewing our hardcopy version located at the Welcome Center.



Members can view our birthday list by:

- Viewing our emailed version of our monthly newsletter.
(Let the office know if you'd like to receive an emailed copy.)
- Viewing our hardcopy version located at the Welcome Center.

