

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
11204 SOUTH 204TH ST., PO BOX 39  
GRETNA, NE 68028

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Preschool Office: 332-3267  
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If you no longer wish to receive this mailing, please contact the church office at 402-332-3345 or e-mail at [gslc@gslcgretna.org](mailto:gslc@gslcgretna.org)

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## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

11204 S. 204th Street \* P.O. Box 39  
Gretna, NE 68028

My Friends in Christ,

Good Shepherd had the opportunity to host a Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI) Missional Community for 3 days this past month. Over 70 pastors and lay persons attended the conference here. It offered an excellent forum for learning methods, sharing ideas, hearing testimonies, and forming plans to assist churches (Christians!) in making a positive difference in today's American culture.

Jock Ficken, the executive director of PLI, shared that the perception of a high percentage of people towards churches in America today is basically negative, or at best, neutral. Churches are regarded as mere institutions only; sort of an irrelevant remnant out of the past. (So different from the perception of people decades ago in which churches were the *pride* of most communities.)

So for instance, as Ficken related, the vast majority of people who drive by our church these days most likely have no good impression of it. If they think of the church at all, they assume that it offers no significant contribution to their lives, or to life in general. More likely, if they have any thoughts at all about churches, their thoughts are probably negative and ill-informed: a place where judgmental and narrow-minded people are affiliated. Who wants to be a part of that?

PLI points out that if there is to be any positive impact of the church in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America, then Christians need, more than ever, *to be Christians to others!* Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. What does that mean? Find ways to help others especially those who are down and out. Be generous each and every day with kind words. Volunteer to help others when you can. Take part in good community projects. Share compassion not only in words but especially in deeds for those who are hurting. Take time to listen and take time to help. Be hospitable. Be forgiving. All of these words and deeds send a loud message into the community about who the people of the church are, and Who we follow!

Always, the ultimate hope that we have is that the Spirit would lead folks to know Jesus as Savior. Some beautiful examples were shared at the conference of how simple acts of love brought individuals into the life of the church, and ultimately into eternal life with Jesus.

In this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, may the Lord continue to show us ways to be our brother's keeper, and may we do it for Jesus' sake!

Pastor Gary Werling

May 2019

### Church Office

Phone..... 402 332 3345  
Fax.....402 332 4821

### E-mail

[gslc@gslcgretna.org](mailto:gslc@gslcgretna.org)

### Web page

[gslcgretna.org](http://gslcgretna.org)

### Preschool Office

Phone..... 402 332 3267

### Staff

**Senior Pastor**  
Rev. Gary Werling..... ext. 206  
**Associate Pastor**  
Rev. Sam Pitsch .....ext. 204  
**Director of Children & Family Ministries**  
Mrs. Tara Hess..... ext. 205  
**Director of Youth & Small Group Ministry**  
Mr. Bob Broekemeier.. ext. 201  
**Director of Organ**  
Sonja Lundgren..... ext. 207  
**Director of Choir**  
Sara Lorenz .....ext. 207  
**Director of Praise Band**  
Andy Hardies .....ext. 207  
**Director of Outreach**  
Vern Nemitz .....ext. 201  
**DCE of Specialized Ministry**  
Warren Viehl ..... ext. 201  
**Administrative Assistants**  
Mrs. Robin Kincade ...ext. 201  
Mrs. Joyce Wittrock...ext. 201  
**Business Manager**  
Mrs. Jan Kounkel.....ext. 201

### Wee Lambs Preschool Staff

**Director/Teacher**.....ext. 203  
Lisa Stirtz  
**Teachers** .....ext. 213  
Katie Skorc & Angie Richling  
**Teachers**.....ext. 214  
Deb Knihal & Susan Josoff  
**Teachers** .....ext. 215  
Carol Theall, Andrea Cole,  
Rachel Doorenbos,  
Kelly Jansen

### Worship

**Sunday Mornings**  
8:00 AM Liturgical  
9:30 AM Traditional  
10:45 AM Contemporary

**Wednesday Evenings**  
7:00 PM Sanctuary

### Sunday Christian Education Hour

9:15 AM

IN OUR PRAYERS	IN OUR PRAYERS	STEWARDSHIP NOTES
<p><b>Overseas Servants:</b> Ahlman family, Alyssa Anders, The Ashor family, Baker family, the Cima family, the Clausing family, Nichelle Dykema, the Eisold family, the Fay family, Rev. Stuart &amp; Debra Freese, Gail Grieser, the Hosch family, the Kuddes family, the Lehman family, the Lo family, Kendra McNatt, James &amp; Christel Neuendorf, Judy Newhouse, Sharon Owen, the Paul family, the Rickman family, Steven &amp; Cynthia Schumacher, the Sharp family, Douglas &amp; Angela Thompson, the Wildauer family, the Wood family, and the Yang family.</p> <p><b>Serving Our Country:</b> Trent Boyer, Jamie Durance, Jeffrey Durance, Jessica Durance, Daniel Ellis, Colton Fickler, Brayden Hardies, Samuel Kutz, Joe LeMaster, Corbin Michael, Shay Pippitt, Matthew Schuetz, Ryan Schuetz, Jon Spahn, Jason Vierra, Alan Wineinger</p> <p><b>Peace &amp; Comfort:</b> To the families of Warren Ueckert and Lynn Lessman.</p>	<p><b>Health and Strength:</b> Amy Adamson, Catherine Anderson, Bryce Arp, Keith &amp; Sarah Banwart, Carolyn Behney, Gerhard Broekemeier, Tom &amp; Karen Cooper, Christy Currie, Bryan Drebes, John Gregory, Rebecca Haussman, Jackie Hays, Jim Hazel, Violetta Hinkell, Dale Hoffart, Rita Jaworski, Ed Kauss, Clara Keller, Bill Kiesling, Linda Killion, Amy LaFontaine, Roger Lemke, Scott Marr, Jessica Melvin, Mert Nielsen, Patrick &amp; Dawna Nikiema, Riley Penny, Greg Poynter, Micah Settle, Larry Staley, Lynda Teeters, Gabriel Tegeder, Kenneth Walters, Shane Werner, Roger Wilson, Rick Witcher, Bob Wood, Karl Ziegler</p> <p><b>Baptisms in April</b> <b>April 7</b> <b>Ethan William Bogseth</b> Son of Mike &amp; Sarah</p> <p><b>April 28</b> <b>Merrick James Bachman</b> Son of Cory &amp; Chelsea <b>Austin Raymond Beachler</b> Son of Colby &amp; Kayla</p>	<p><b>Worship Attendance:</b></p> <p><b>APRIL 3 WED WORSHIP 100</b> General Offering \$895</p> <p><b>APRIL 7 CONFIRMATION SUN 877</b> (8:00-169 9:30-378 10:45-330) General Offering \$10,335</p> <p><b>APRIL 10 WED WORSHIP 126</b> General Offering \$1,034</p> <p><b>APRIL 14 SUNDAY WORSHIP 445</b> (8:00-108 9:30-151 10:45-186) General Offering \$7,913 Wee Lambs \$75</p> <p><b>APRIL 18 MAUNDY THURS 134</b> General Offering \$3,611</p> <p><b>APRIL 19 GOOD FRIDAY 224</b> General Offering \$1,216</p> <p><b>APRIL 21 EASTER SUNDAY 1,186</b> (6:30-80 8:00-231 9:30 MAC-457 9:30 SANCT-264 11:00-154) General Offering \$16,293</p> <p><b>APRIL 28 SUNDAY WORSHIP 366</b> (8:00-88 9:30-156 10:45-122) General Offering \$6,272</p>



Tara Hess, our Director of Children and Family Ministries, has signed up to go Over the Edge in support of Youth for Christ in Omaha on June 1. She will stand on the roof of the Highline Apartment Building in downtown Omaha and step Over the Edge and rappel 230 feet to the ground! (event website: [www.OmahaOverTheEdge.com](http://www.OmahaOverTheEdge.com))

Tara needs your support to get to the top. She is not only pledging to go Over the Edge, but also committing to raise \$1500 for Youth for Christ. The vision of Youth for Christ is that every kid would be able to experience the love of Jesus from someone they know and trust.

How can you help? By making a 100% tax-deductible donation to her website: <https://support.goyfc.org/fundraiser/2026223>

You may also send check or money order made out to Youth for Christ, memo

Tara Hess to: Youth for Christ  
Attn: Over the Edge/Tara Hess  
5062 S 108<sup>th</sup> St  
PO BOX #160  
Omaha, NE 68137

Thank you for supporting Youth for Christ and helping Tara go OVER THE EDGE.

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 **SENIOR VIDEO PRESENTATION**

We'll be honoring GSLC's high school seniors at all three services on May 5th. Seniors will also be invited to the front of the church that day to receive a gift and to be prayed for.

**EASTER SUNDAY WAS A SPECIAL TIME!**

Thanks to everyone who helped with our Easter services and Easter breakfast. The music in each service was a beautiful testimony to our risen Lord! Many thanks to our youth group and adult leaders and helpers for providing an outstanding Easter breakfast again this year. And the Easter messages were filled with inspiration and Christian hope. Thanks to all of you!

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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

VBS is right around the corner! In one month (June 9-13) kiddos from our church and community will gather together for a Miraculous Mission and learn how Jesus saves the world! It will be a fantastic week of craft making, song singing, Bible learning, snack eating and game playing! We need your help in making it a success! Please get your kiddos signed up and learn more about VBS by going online at [www.gslcgretna.org](http://www.gslcgretna.org). We need to know how many kiddos are coming so we can prepare for them! We also need adults and youth to leads all areas of VBS. Please contact Tara Hess to see how you can get plugged in!



**WEE LAMBS PRESCHOOL** We will be ending our 17th year of Wee Lambs Preschool on May 20/21. We'll have a closing chapel service in the sanctuary at 8:45 and 12:45 on those days, and all are welcome join us.

Our year will end with 121 preschoolers, and nine staff members. It has been a great year and God again has truly blessed this preschool. What a joy it is to share Jesus with these little people every day! They have learned their ABC's, 123's, colors, shapes, sorting, matching, how to do puzzles, playing outside, but most importantly they have learned that Jesus loves them ALWAYS. Great friendships were formed and we pray they will be long lasting.

Thanks to all for your prayers and support, and thanks to those who participated as a prayer partner for our little ones!

**End of the Year Programs** will be May 6, 7 and 9 at 6:30 PM. We invite you all to come listen to our children sing about Jesus and the fun things they have done at preschool this year.


**WE STILL HAVE ROOM** for the fall in our classes. .... TTH for 3 year olds. MWF and MTWTH for 4 and 5 year olds. Take a look at our website or call Lisa Stirtz, Preschool Director at 332-3267 for more information.

**CONGRATULATIONS HS SENIORS!**

<p><b>Kayla Andrews</b> Undecided</p> <p><b>Laura Antholz</b> Northeastern University Psychology</p> <p><b>Evan Beran</b> Concordia Univ, Seward NE Business</p> <p><b>Cameron Cerny</b> University of Nebraska Lincoln Business Marketing</p> <p><b>Benjamin Coldiron</b> Concordia Univ, Seward NE Human Psychology- Biology minor</p> <p><b>Carson Gobber</b> University of Nebraska Lincoln Business &amp; Entrepreneurship</p> <p><b>Coby Hardies</b> Wayne State</p> <p><b>Kati Harmon</b> University of Nebraska Kearney Special Education &amp; Pre- Occupational Therapy</p> <p><b>Bryant Jeary</b> Doane College Physical therapy/ Orthopedic surgery</p> <p><b>Devon Kincade</b> University of Nebraska Kearney Dental Hygiene</p> <p><b>Connor Lammel</b> Colorado State University Finance/Leadership (minor)</p> <p><b>Payton Lammers</b> University of Nebraska, Omaha Psychology/ PreLaw</p>	<p><b>Bennett Lorenz</b> Wayne State College</p> <p><b>Chaylea Mandina</b> Creighton University Pre-medicine</p> <p><b>Caden Opfer</b> Northwest Missouri State or University of NE Omaha Veterinary medicine</p> <p><b>Trinity Ortlieb</b> University of Nebraska Lincoln Public Relations/ Broadcasting</p> <p><b>Anna Richling</b> University of Nebraska Kearney Speech Pathology</p> <p><b>Benjamin Schaefer</b> South Dakota School of Mines medical or chemical engineering</p> <p><b>Hannah Schmidt</b> Concordia Univ, Seward, NE undecided</p> <p><b>Olivia Thompson</b> Wayne State Physicians Assistant</p> <p><b>Jace Wiese</b> Metro Community College Business Construction/Diesel Tech</p> <p><b>Alex Ryan</b> US Marine Corps</p> <p><b>Andrew Wollenburg</b> University of Wyoming Outdoor recreation and Tourism Management</p>
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**FORMER VICARS SCHEDULED TO PREACH IN 2019**

As part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, we have asked former vicars and pastors to select a Sunday to be with us to preach. So far, the following former vicars, now pastors, have been scheduled: Rev. Paul Muther on June 2nd; Rev. Ryan Duerr on June 23; Rev. Richard Lally on July 28th; Rev. Mike Feldmann on August 4th; and Rev. Joshua Traxel on September 15th. Anniversary speakers for November 3 will be Rev. Richard Greenthauer and Rev. Joel Wallschlaeger.

 **MISSION AND MINISTRY M & M'S** How can we help people affected by the flood? Can you eat some M and M's to help them? There are tubes of M & M's in the back of the church, and we ask that you pick one up, eat the M & M's, fill the tube with money, bring your tube back to the church, and drop it in the basket by our M & M's display. All donations will be given to flood relief. This project is a mission outreach sponsored by Wee Lambs Preschool with a Thrivent Action Team grant.

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 **YOUTH COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT**

As part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Give-Back-To-The-Community project, our youth group has undertaken a community garden project in the back area of our church property. A raised set of gardens has been built and the produce will to be given to the residents of the apartments next to the church. We thank the youth for this excellent service project!

 **HARVEST ARTS & CRAFTS BOUTIQUE**

Vendor registration is now open for our October 19th craft fair! Go to the NEWS tab on our website, [www.gslcgretna.org](http://www.gslcgretna.org), to register and pay for a booth. If your items are not hand made, please check with the office before registering.

**GIVE 40 BAGS**

We are finished collecting for "Give 40", but want to thank everyone for their overwhelming support! We collected over 160 bags!

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