

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

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Preschool Office: 332-3267
E-mail: gslc@gslcgretna.org
Web page: gslcgretna.org

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Church Office

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gslc@gslcgretna.org

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gslcgretna.org

Link for Live Streamed
Services

Preschool Office

Phone.....402 332 3267

Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Gary Werling

Vicar

Eric Larson

Director of Children & Family Ministries

Mrs. Tara Hess

Director of Youth

Mr. Bob Broekemeier

Director of Organ

Sonja Lundgren

Director of Choir

Rick Zorko

Director of Praise Band

Andy Hardies

Director of Outreach

Vern Nemitz

DCE of Specialized Ministry

Warren Viehl

Administrative Assistant

Cathy Kilawee

Business Manager

Mrs. Jan Kounkel

Wee Lambs Preschool

Staff

Director/Teacher

Lisa Stirtz

Teachers

Carol Theall

Deb Knihal

Katie Skorcz

Christal Kuchera

Kristie Ramsey

Teacher Assistants

Susan Josoff

Angie Richling

Kelly Jansen

Andrea Cole

Dani Waters

Worship

Sunday Mornings

8:00 AM Traditional

9:30 AM Traditional

10:45AM Contemporary/MAC

Wednesday Evenings

7:00 PM Traditional

Sunday Christian Education Hour-915a

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

May 2022

From Vicar Eric Larson

Are you excited about spring? Every spring we see new buds, brighter colors, and sudden growth. The tree that loses its leaves in fall and then sprouts again in spring reminds us that God has the power to give life. But we also see signs of death all around us. Things tend to fall apart if you do not deal with them. Our bodies do not always work the way they should. Every day we are one day closer to our death. If we look at the world around us, we get mixed signals. There are encouraging signs of abundant life and disturbing signs of certain death.

This is why we need to constantly hear of how God the Father sent Jesus Christ to die and rise for the sins of all people. Easter and Lent are seasons where we are reminded of the unshakeable truths, we need to be reminded of every day. We need to know that Jesus Christ died and rose for our salvation. And because we are baptized believers in Jesus Christ, who have been buried and raised with Him. We can be confident that we will be raised to eternal life with Him. So, here is another reminder to rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus.

Christ has risen! He has risen indeed Alleluia!

From Pastor Werling

Our family very much appreciates the prayers offered for Pam who contracted Covid early last week. She has had a couple of rough days, but overall her symptoms have been tolerable for her. Thanks to our kind Lord and the good doctors and meds He has given to us, she is coming along and feeling better each day. My turn may be coming, but I am very thankful that Covid hasn't yet caught up with me.

We received happy news on April 26 that the Board of Placement of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis granted our call to Vicar Eric to serve as our associate pastor. He is gladly accepting the call and will be installed here on the afternoon of Sunday, July 10. Thanks be to God!

I took a few days to visit with my siblings back in Hill City, Kansas where we grew up. It was a good time to get together, reminisce, and check out familiar places in our old hometown. Many things have changed, of course. That town of 2,500 back in the 70's is now about 1,400. Street activity has slowed. McCauley's and Kobler's Drug Stores are no more. Those wonderful soda fountains and individual booths with jukeboxes are just good memories. Buck's Grill and its unforgettable burger, fries, and coke for something like .50 is gone. The IGA grocery store where Mom always got our groceries is gone. The A & W Drive-In still stands – but as an indoor-only café. We checked out the homes where we lived and places that once were. And we visited the Hill City Cemetery north of town. Along with paying respects to our parents' and little brother's graves, we thought of others who are there as well. And for whatever reason, we were somehow pleased to point out where each of our final resting places will be....or better said, "where each of our temporary resting places will be."

Christians may be certain that this old temporary world will– on the day of resurrection when Jesus comes back again—be replaced with a new and glorious eternal world that "can never perish, spoil, or fade—kept in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). Thank God that the best is yet to come!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Health and Strength:

Catherine Anderson, Kerri Black, Evelyn Fisher, Melinda Halverson, Marcile Katt, Ed Kauss, Bill Kiesling, Amy LaFontaine, Barb Margolis, Kyle O'Neill, Anita Vogele, & Bob Wood.

Overseas Servants of the Gospel:

The Ahlman family, Alyssa Anders, The Ashor family, The Baker family, The Cima family, The Clausing family, Nichelle Dykema, The Eisold family, The Fay family, Rev. Stuart & Debra Freese, Gail Grieser, The Hosch family, The Kuddes family, The Lehman family, The Lo family, Kendra McNatt, James & Christel Neuendorf, Judy Newhouse, Sharon Owen, The Paul family, Sandra Rhein, The Rickman family, Steven & Cynthia Schumacher, The Sharp family, Douglas & Angela Thompson, The Wildauer family, The Wood family, and The Yang family.

Serving Our Country:

Kayla Andrews, Trent Boyer, Valkyrie Calkison, Jamie Durance, Jeffrey Durance, Jessica Durance, Daniel Ellis, Colton

Fickler, Christian Hadden, Brayden Hardies, Samuel Kutz, Joe LeMaster, Corbin Michael, Shay Pippitt, Alden Ryan, Alex Ryan, Matthew Schuetz, Ryan Schuetz, Jon Spahn, Jason Vierra, Alan Wineinger.

Scripture Readings

May 1

Acts 9:1-22 / Revelation 5:8-14 / John 21:1-14

May 8

Acts 20:17-35 / Rev. 7:9-17 / John 10:22-30

May 15

Acts 11:1-18 / Revelation 21:1-7 / John 13:31-35

May 22

Acts 16:9-15 / Revelation 21:9-14 / John 16:23-33

May 29

Acts 1:1-11 / Ephesians 1:15-23 / Luke 24:44-53

Worship Attendance:

APRIL 1 Confirmation Sunday 814
(8:00-110/9:30-321/11:00-289 & WED-94)
General Offering \$28,697

APRIL 10 Palm Sunday 357
(8:00-74/9:30-154/10:45-129)
General Offering \$5,872

APRIL 14 Maundy Thurs 124

APRIL 15 Good Friday 259

APRIL 17 Easter Sunday 1010
(6:30-56/8:00-193/9:30 S-299/9:30 M-240/11:00-222)
General Offering \$11,835

APRIL 24 Sunday Service 284
(8:00-78/9:30-128/10:45-70/
& WED-8)
General Offering \$8,009

APRIL 27 Wednesday 15
General Offering \$125





WEE LAMBS PRESCHOOL We will end our school year May 16 and 17 with 125 preschoolers and 11 staff members. We have had a great school year! The highlights this year was our trip to Schramm Park, Metro Stars Gymnastics, and Omaha Symphony. We had lots of fun outside on our playground and those rainy days in the MAC. Everyone learned many stories about Jesus and attended chapel every month. We learned how to write or recognize our names, how to count from 1 to 20, our colors and shapes. Many great friends have been made who we will be missed over the summer time.

This will be my last school year as Director, with my official retirement on May 31st. Carol Theall will be the new Director of Wee Lambs. It has been a great 20 years and the preschool has thrived with the help of so many people and the love and support of Good Shepherd Lutheran families. We ask for your continued prayers for the preschool and staff members. Lisa Stirtz, Director

Join us Sundays online or in person!

RECOGNITION FOR LISA!! Lisa Stirtz is retiring from her service to the Lord as Wee Lambs Preschool Director at the end of May. We will recognize Lisa for her 20 years of service on **Sunday, May 22** in all three morning services. Praise be to God for Lisa's excellent work for all these years with our preschool children!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022 ** June 5-9

Volunteers Needed for VBS I'm looking for Middle School (completing 6th grade May 2022), High School, College Students and Adults who want to help with Vacation Bible School. In about a month we will have a building full of students eager to learn more about Jesus and have a blast doing it. We need craft leaders, game leaders, decorators, small group leaders, and more to make this one of the best weeks of the year for our children. If you would like to know more are ready to dive in please contact Tara Hess at the church office. We would love to have you on our Making Waves team and show you how you can make a difference in the world of our kids!



Making Waves VBS This year at VBS the kids will learn how they can make a difference in the world around us! This theme will be reinforced through games, snacks, crafts, small groups, and more! Children 3 years old (with a trusted adult) through 5th graders (finishing 5th grade May of 2022) are welcome to register for this amazing week! Please head over to the church website to learn more... but do it soon! Register now so we can be prepared for the best week ever! VBS starts June 5th!

LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) The convention this year will be July 22-23, 2022 and held at the Ramada Inn in Columbus, NE. Beginning at 9:30AM on Friday with a worship service. We would love to have our LWML sisters and friends attend this special event. You can register online at lwmlnebraskanorth.org. For questions, please reach out to Lisa Stirtz, NE North LWML President at 402-657-0797.



The GivePlus+ app is available for download in the app store

In the app, in the Find Church section, use zip code '68028' to find Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Click 'Give Now' to begin making your donation

Click the '+' at the top of the screen to add your donation

Select the fund, most likely 'GENERAL OPERATING', where you would like your donation to be used

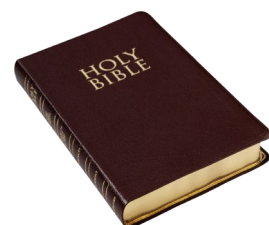
Select or input your donation amount and click 'Add'

Review your donation amount and select 'Next' to continue

Choose to make your donation by using your credit or debit card or from your checking or savings account

Enter your card or bank information, your billing details, and select 'Next' to continue

Finally, confirm your donation to Good Shepherd



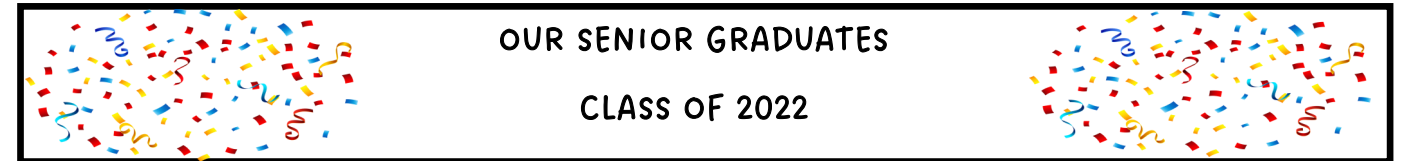
Join one of our Bible Studies! Offerings are listed on the calendar insert.



The **Church Boards** would like to thank **Loretta Hardies** for all her work with the Lenten dinners. She tirelessly came every Wednesday and worked the kitchen especially running the dishwasher.

THANK YOU LORETTA for pitching in and being there! You made the nights run smoothly and kept everything streamlined!!

PRIME TIMERS The Prime Timers April Event was a visit to the 426 winery in Ashland. The group spent a beautiful afternoon enjoying great wine and wonderful fellowship. Our next event will be on Wed. May 18th (notice change in date). We will enjoy lunch at Lansky's (168th & 370) and returning to the church for afternoon playing games and cards. Meet at the church at 10:30 or at the restaurant at 11 am. Hope you can join us. Any questions contact Ron and Alane Johns.



OUR SENIOR GRADUATES

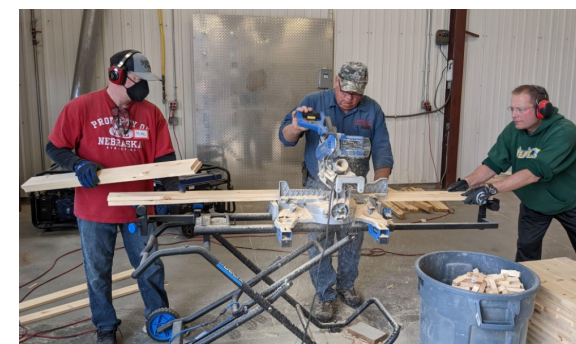
CLASS OF 2022

Kaden Barton
Thomas Blake
Isabella Bricker
Sadie Bronson
Katelynn Cogswell
Corryn Erb
Bailey Fjell
Hayden Fjell
Reid Fjell
William Frazer
Mason Heckenlively
Ashley Horst
Jacob Hubbard
Grant Jansen

Nolan Johnson
Lauren Jurgensmeier
Clayton Kelly
Logan Kraegel
Callie Kutz
Breanna LaFontaine
Brock LaFontaine
Logan Loberg
Aiden Locke
Hunter Matulka
Carissa McKay
Addison Moore
Ava Nelson
Cody Peterson

Jacob Rehbein
Olivia Runge
Ellie Schmidt
Gage Scholting
Kiley Skokan
Garrett Smith
Ty Sterling
Lillian Theall
Danielle Tonjes
Elizabeth Vandenberg
Brady Vetter
Emma Willey

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE PROJECT A big thank you to all who participated in the Sleep Heavenly Peace service project on Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th. Seventy-three members of Good Shepherd participated in the project, and with the help of other churches, we were able to make eighty bed frames for children in the Omaha area who do not have a bed. We also raised \$11,850 toward the purchase of beds. Praise the Lord!



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

