

The Shepherd's Voice

March/April 2024



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Green Pastures PreSchool

Justice Matters Update

There's 21 days until spring!!

PASTOR'S NOTE:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life.

Mark 8:36

As you know, we are in one of the busiest seasons of the church. This newsletter covers the remainder of this season of Lent, including Holy Week. It will also cover Easter Sunday, and then into the Easter season.

Throughout this newsletter, you will hear of a variety of activities and worship services that will take place. I encourage you to take part in as many of these as you can. You will also not be surprised that I am encouraging you to attend all of our Holy Week services; not just Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter Sunday, but also Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The high of Easter Sunday means more if you also experience the low of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

As we look ahead to celebrating Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, it makes me

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think of a key point C. S. Lewis made in a sermon he gave in 1942 titled, “The Weight of Glory.” At the end of the sermon’s opening paragraph, Lewis wrote:

“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

In general, due to our day-to-day interactions with others, most of us might say that we humans are never satisfied, that we are hard to please. What if Lewis is right? What if our problem is that “We are far too easily pleased.” Put a different way, what if we are settling for something much less than what God has in store for us?

Is this not what Jesus is saying to us in the verse above from Mark’s Gospel? We have heard this verse again and again in worship recently as Jesus tries to get his disciples ready to celebrate that first Easter Sunday morning.

We spend a lot of time and energy chasing after the things of this world. No matter what we accomplish, or do, or acquire – you may have noticed that the happiness it brings is brief, and the length of time it lessens our worry and anxiety is too short-lived.

Why would we settle for anything less than what God has in store for us? It could be because there is a cross involved. That is what makes us want to skip Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and just show up on Easter Sunday. When we do that, Lewis may be right, “We are far too easily pleased.”

When it comes to God’s glory, a cross is involved. And if we try to ignore it, or think we can get around it, we are settling for less than what God has in store for us.

We should not settle for less. Instead of settling for what belongs to us, we should embrace that we belong to Christ. It means that a cross is involved, but it also means that in Christ, instead of settling for brief moments of happiness, we will find true joy. And instead of short-lived breaks from high anxiety and worry in this world, in Jesus, we will find lasting peace.

Starting now, as we journey together through the remainder of this season of Lent, then through Holy Week, and on to Easter Sunday and season, may we not be so easily pleased by this world, and may we settle for nothing less than what God has in store for us through Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ted

Music and Worship:

Lenten Midweek Schedule

Lent is a season of prayerful preparation for Easter and an opportunity to reflect and go deeper with God. This year's theme is "Again and Again". Please join us on those dates for meals at 6:00 pm and services at 7:00 pm. Our midweek offerings will go to *Lutheran Campus Ministries*. See below for the remaining midweek service dates on Wednesday Evenings during Lent

*Upcoming Music & Worship Calendar**

<i>March 6</i>	<i>Midweek Lenten Meal & Worship—6:00 pm meal; 7:00 pm worship</i>
<i>March 13</i>	<i>Midweek Lenten Meal & Worship—6:00 pm meal; 7:00 pm worship</i>
<i>March 20</i>	<i>Midweek Lenten Meal & Worship—6:00 pm meal; 7:00 pm worship</i>
<i>March 24</i>	<i>Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion—9:00 am & 11:00 am</i>
<i>March 27</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday Service—7:00 pm</i>
<i>March 28</i>	<i>Good Friday Service—7:00 pm</i>
<i>March 31</i>	<i>Easter Sunrise Service—6:45 am, Pioneer Cemetery</i>
<i>March 31</i>	<i>Easter Services—9:00 am & 11:00 am</i>
<i>April 7</i>	<i>LCM at GSLC—9:00 am & 11:00 am</i>

**The entire GSLC calendar is on our website - gslc-lawrence.org*

Announcements during Lent



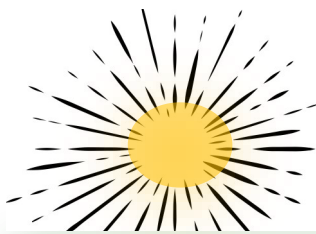
During the season of Lent, we will be giving up verbal announcements. This will help us focus on listening to God's Word. To share important information with our community, be sure to turn your announcements in written form to the office for Baa the Way, slides for Worship 2.0, or the bulletin for Classic Worship.



Easter Lily and Tulip Orders

Orders are being taken for white “Easter” lily and yellow tulip plants used to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday (and the following weeks until blooms are depleted). Order forms are available on the table outside the sanctuary doors. Plants are \$10.00 for lilies, \$15.00 for tulips; checks should be made out to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; order forms and payment may be returned to the church office.

Order deadline: Sunday, **March 10**, 2024. If you have questions, please contact Becky Foerschler, 785-842-0904; or rfoerschler@gmail.com.



Easter Sunrise Worship

We hope you can join us for the Easter sunrise service at Pioneer Cemetery on the University of Kansas West Campus. We will gather at 6:30 am for a 6:45 am service and the service will be over by 7:30 am. If you wish to sit, please bring your own chair or stool. In the case of inclement weather, the sunrise service will be cancelled. Please check the church website, Facebook page or answering machine for any weather-related cancellations.

LCM at GSLC

Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday at Good Shepherd will be April 7th with Pastor Susan Mercer preaching. Our congregation helps support this local ministry. Plan to join us and learn how campus ministry is important for everyone.

Good Shepherd Choir

GSLC Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays, 7:00-8:15 pm.

New members are always welcome! Contact Judy Heller for more information or to be added to the email list.

Kelley Witmer, Worship Committee Chair, kelly@wheatfieldtechnology.com, 785-760-0155
Judy Heller, Music Minister – Classic Worship, hellerjudyw@gmail.com, 785-843-9521
Megan Ebke, Worship Leader – Worship 2.0, megan.ebke@gmail.com, 785-844-1830
Thad Reist, Organist/Pianist—Classic Worship, tjreist@yahoo.com, 785-556-0333

Hospitality Committee

Lenten Midweek Meals

During the season of Lent, we hope you will join us Again and Again for a simple meal of soup, bread, conversation and fellowship on Wednesdays Feb.21, 28 and Mar 6, 13 and 20. If you would like to provide a pot or crockpot of soup, or bread, for one of these meals, or can help with setup, please sign up on the easel in the entry.

Caring and Sharing Meals

Caring and Sharing Meals is a ministry at GSLC where volunteers provide an occasional meal to those in our faith community who are in need of some help with meals due to situations like a death in the family, recovery from surgery, illness, or birth of a baby.

The Hospitality Ministry Team is trying to restart this ministry post-Covid. We are excited to have a coordinator lined up and several volunteers willing to provide meals, but we need several more meal providers on board before we can get this important ministry back in action. Details are still being finalized, but in general, when a need for meals is known, the coordinator will communicate with the person needing the meal(s) to determine the number of meals, the period of time, food restrictions or wishes, delivery details, etc. The coordinator will then reach out to the food preparer volunteers, likely through email or a meal train app, to determine who is available to provide meals for that particular need. The

meal that is provided is up to the volunteer, considering any requests or restrictions.

An example of a meal would be a main dish (casserole, soup, meat), side or salad, possibly bread and/or dessert. Typically, the food preparer would deliver the meal. If you are willing to be a meal preparer volunteer, please sign up in the narthex or contact Kim Mosher. If you are interested in preparing meals but are not able to deliver them, we can make arrangements to have someone else deliver. Or if you would like to participate, but only love to make main dishes, or desserts, for example, we can use that too. If you have questions, please contact Kim Mosher.



Easter Morning Brunch

One of Good Shepherd's favorite special events is our Easter morning brunch which will be held this year from 9:30 – 11:00 am on Easter morning in the fellowship hall. Watch for sign-up sheets in the near future for those able to bring breakfast casseroles, fruit, pastries, milk or other breakfast items.

Did You Miss It?

Our Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser on Fat Tuesday was a fabulously fun time and successful fundraiser.

Guests enjoyed hot pancakes and sausages with a variety of toppings beyond the usual butter and syrup. Our Worship 2.0 band played lively Mardi Gras jazz while people bid on 34 auction items. The event raised approximately \$2500. Thanks to Thrivent for providing a \$250 Thrivent Action Teams grant. Many thanks to all who attended, those who donated auction items, volunteers and the planning team.



Come join us next time!



Hello from the Preschool!

We have had a lovely fall with our preschool friends! We had a visit from the fire department, the kids learned about fire safety and got to climb in the firetruck. Everyone enjoyed our first field trip of the year to Schaake's Pumpkin Patch. The weather was beautiful and everyone got to bring home a pumpkin. We also had our Fall Festival in the church parking lot, an event we started to try and create community between our preschool families. Although the weather was chilly, the kids loved the bouncy house and painting pumpkins! A big thank you to all the church members who donated delicious desserts for the cake walk- it was a huge hit! We also had our 'Thankfulness Feast' the last day before Thanksgiving break and got to celebrate being a school family!

As we enter December the kids are looking forward to the Christmas Season. Our annual Christmas Pageant is coming up, and we have begun practicing for it. The students have also been busy learning about the birth of Jesus with crafts, stories and songs.

Thank you to the church for all your support! Our little preschool is a light to so many families, and I am so proud of it! We continue to strive to be a blessing in Lawrence. Merry Christmas!

Day

JUSTICE MATTERS

Our Good Shepherd Network Members are preparing for the Action Assembly which will be on April 28th at the Lied Center. We are issuing invitations to our congregants, families, friends, neighbors and co-workers. We will make sure all our invitees know the Problem Statement, the Issue Cut and the Goal for this cycle.

The Problem for Elder Care: there is not enough available, affordable and accessible care for elders in Douglas County. The Issue Cut: Heartland Workforce Development Board will implement Dwyer Workforce Development's Program with scholars enrolled in the program by January 2025 to increase the number of Certified Nursing Assistants to provide quality care to those Douglas County residents who need it. And the Goal: the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Dwyer Workforce Development and Heartland Workforce Development Board.

The Problem Statement for Homelessness: the number of people experiencing homelessness on Lawrence streets has increased every year. The Issue Cut: beginning the implementation this year of the Built for Zero model with the goal of reaching functional zero chronic homelessness by 2028. Goals for this cycle: Built for Zero hires, Director of Housing and Homelessness position filled, single point of entry named and a running and operational by names list.

The very exciting news is some of these goals have already been met. And more good news will be presented at our Action Assembly.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Action Assembly on Sunday afternoon, April 28th at the Lied Center beginning at 3pm.

We all do Justice together.