



The Good Shepherd Newsletter February, 2018

We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Psalm 100

“The Gospel in Seven Words”

The season of Lent is a time to reflect and repent. It’s a time to confess our sins as we prepare for Holy Week. But it’s also a time to confess our faith. It’s a time to prepare to give a reason for why Holy Week is so important. That’s what this Lenten Series tries to do. It aims to equip us to confess our faith before a lost and dying world.

Imagine that a friend or family member who is unfamiliar with your Christian faith asks you to summarize the gospel. She isn’t looking for a laundry list of doctrines. She has no interest in hearing you recite the Apostles’ Creed. She wants to get to the heart of the matter. “In seven words or less,” she says, “tell me what you believe as a Christian.”

What would you say? How would you put it? Are you be prepared to confess your faith in Jesus?

To be a Christian is to “believe with your heart” and “confess with your mouth” the good news of God’s love for us in Christ (Romans 10:9–10). Peter calls us to be prepared always to give a reason for the hope we have as Christians (1 Peter 3:15). Christians have the best news in the world to share! But are we prepared to share it?

During this season of Lent, we’re going to prepare to celebrate Holy Week by sharing why Holy Week is so important. Our midweek worship services will serve as opportunities to consider the many ways in which the Scriptures proclaim Jesus. During the week, each of you will be working on your own summary, with the hopes that all of us are more prepared to share the good news of Jesus. Come and join us this Lent, and join us by crafting your own confession of the gospel!

I hope that you will join us!
Pastor Ray

Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Breakfast
7:00 AM – 10:00 AM
In the Fellowship Hall



Wednesday mid-week services: **Dinner at 5:30 PM**
followed by the **Service at 6:30 PM**

- The Gospel in Seven Words**
- February 14 – ASH WEDNESDAY
- February 21 – Preparing to Confess
- February 28 – “Captivity and Freedom”
- March 7 – “Death and Life”
- March 14 – “Isolation and Community”
- March 21 – The Gospel in *Your Words*
- March 29 – Maundy Thursday (7 PM)
- March 30 – Good Friday (7 PM)





“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” - Jeremiah 29:11

I have a hard time getting past the use of ministry clichés before uncovering useful insights in presentations. Years ago I developed a conference game for entertainment by making fun of those clichés while sitting through countless lectures. The game identifies common ministry clichés and when a presenter uses one of the clichés, players mark its use on their playing card. The winner is determined when a player completes the winning bingo pattern.



A commonly used cliché is the “biblically based” cliché, which is used to justify a model of ministry (typically a new model) or to criticize a current model. A variation of this cliché is “Jesus did it this way.” Our own current model is structured around the biblically based five purposes of the church (Outreach, Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, and Service).

24 to Double is also rooted in biblical principles.

“Your church is perfectly structured for the size that it is.” - Jerry Lawson, 24 to Double

In his book, Looking in the Mirror, Lyle Schiller describes our congregation size as a garden. Gardens must be tended and when the gardener is away, neglect is obvious upon his return. Growth means more work for the gardener.

24 to Double underscored the plight of gardeners and the gardens that have made ministry the #1 burn out profession in America. The average church today has a laity culture of consuming ministry—a country club membership approach. A healthier culture is with many producers of ministry—a church membership approach. Thom Rainer labeled the country club membership as a preference-driven church in his book, Autopsy of a Deceased Church.

Dr. Mark Blanke at Concordia Seward, explains we are already **Empowered** by the Holy Spirit for ministry. Congregations are then meant to **Enable** the empowered by providing systems and norms that best facilitate action and **Equip** the enabled, when needed, with resources and training.

24 to Double will help us examine our ministry paradigms, challenge us to change them, and (with the help of the Holy Spirit) to overcome them. Through this process, let us cling onto the promise of Jesus “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20b) because sometimes change can be scary.

Grace & Peace,

Cur † is



High School Youth Group

Meets Sunday evenings 6:00–8:00 PM



Elementary Youth Group

1st & 3rd Sundays 12 – 1:30 PM

Marionette Puppets are performing for Easter Sunday. Practices are scheduled for Saturdays at Noon beginning March 3rd. See Family Life Minister Curtis for more details.

Confirmation Class will not meet during Lent (February 14 – April 2). Our goal is to get through the Ten Commandments unit before our summer break.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Selina Dunworth	2/4	Peter Zipfel	2/22
Bre Ring Anderson	2/5	Ron Artman	2/23
Jill Baughman	2/7	Seth Kerstein	2/23
Jessica Pytlik	2/7	Noah Kerstein	2/25
Natalie Gray	2/12	Don Haggerty	2/26
Andrew Humphrey	2/13	Marty Bates	2/27
Mary Ann Day	2/14	George Day	2/27
Charlene Artman	2/15	Don Hagel	2/27
Weldon Brinkley	2/15	Garry Haase	2/28
Dave Larson	2/16		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Kelly & Rick Keller 2/14



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8



Greetings Beach Goers & Doers:

Tuesday nights are exciting with various topics to discuss that impact Christians and their lives in the 21st century at Lifetree Café. Make plans to attend this month and bring a friend or two.

24 to Double has begun. This program is designed to increase our membership, by doubling our current membership, in just 24 months. Please pray and support this program as often as you can. See Pastor Ray, FLM Curtis, any Elder, or contact the church office if you desire more information about 24 to Double.

During the month of February, remember to Love One Another as Christ Loves Us.



SAVE THE DATE – March 18, 2018 COMING TO GOOD SHEPHERD IN CONCERT

The evening of March 18, Wendysue, is coming to Good Shepherd. She is a full time traveling musician, speaker, and worship leader who lives life as an everyday Christian. She brings passion, professionalism, energy, original music, and joy to events, inspiring others to be “their BOLD self” in sharing Jesus anytime, anywhere with anyone!

For 20 years, God has allowed Wendysue to have a unique traveling ministry of music which takes her all over the US to partner with hundreds of churches leading music in worship services and concerts.

Wendysue has recorded five CD's containing original songs, contemporary praise music, and classic hymns. When not on the road assisting congregations, she teaches private music lessons from her home in Menomonee Falls, WI, where she lives with her husband Craig and two fabulous teenagers. Please support Wendysue's music mission by either purchasing her CDs when she comes to visit or giving a gift offering.

Some of the members of our congregation were introduced to Wendysue in Albuquerque, at the 75th Anniversary Convention of the LWML in 2017, where she led the music for the first time. They were very impressed and want you all to hear her too. Please put this on your calendar for March!





The Youth Board is sponsoring meals prior to Wednesday services during the Lenten Season, beginning February 14th with Ash Wednesday. The Youth Group is encouraged to help with set-up (4:30 PM) and clean-up (immediately after the worship service).

Please watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex if you are willing to donate food items for the meals. Dinner is served from 5:30 until 6:15 PM. The Fellowship Board is serving desserts after our meal instead of after worship service this year.

Join us as we prepare ourselves to remember the death and resurrection of our Lord, and in that remembrance, may we witness the Gospel of Jesus which forgives and removes all our sin.

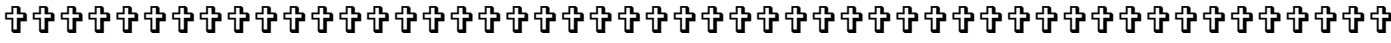
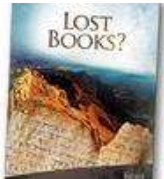


Representatives from AARP are offering free tax aide in the Education Building/Room #5, until Monday, April 16th.

**Wednesday and Thursday
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**



Join Pastor Ray Tuesdays at 10:00 AM in the Library for a study on the Lost Books? Bring your Bible.



Sessions are scheduled for the 2nd Sundays of the month. 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM and repeat session at Noon.

Leaders across the country are calling 24toDouble a church operating system – a program that teaches us to strategically double our attendance in less than two years without using up financial resources we don't have.

In the monthly sessions 24toDouble is a step-by-step guide through its process that has been working for churches of every denomination across America.

Most church growth resources are specifically for the pastor. 24toDouble is for the entire church community. I call it a "Whole Church Discipleship" model.

Too many pastors tend to do it all because they're the ones getting paid. 24toDouble is the anti-pastor "doing it all." And, they are going to show us another way that is more successful.

Doing more isn't scalable. Doing less by getting people to help in areas where they are gifted and passionate is scalable and it inspires people to get on board and become part of the community.

Most churches are stuck for a reason. By inspiring church members we teach them to not only join the teams that will get your church unstuck, but to lead them. This is an end-to-end solution for church growth.





“Doing life. Doing good.”

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversations about life and faith in a casual coffeehouse-type setting here at Good Shepherd on **Tuesdays at 7:00 PM.**

February 6th — *“Whistleblower: The True Story of an FBI informant,”* will explore why Whitacre participated in a crime that defrauded millions of American consumers. It will also explore the effects of his decision to cooperate with authorities in prosecuting the crime.

February 13th — *“In the News: Sexual Misconduct”*—provides an opportunity for participants to discuss the recent avalanche of sexual misconduct accusations.

February 20th — *“Does God Have a Plan for You?”*—features a filmed interview with Operation Baby Lift volunteer LeAnn Thieman. In the final days of the Vietnam War, Thieman and other volunteers extracted hundreds of at-risk babies from Vietnamese orphanages.

February 28th — *“Finding the Family I Never Knew,”* features filmed interviews with two women, one who searched for and connected with her birth mother and one who, after 35 years, still searches for the child she placed for adoption.

Now Showing – February 2018



