



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Harper Clark
- 4 Kyle Stelly
- 11 Roy Kitchens
- 13 Kurt Estes
- 15 Chris Richter
- 17 Rolf Schulz
- 18 Carsand Williams
- 21 Jake Buysse
- 23 Colby Viator
- 26 Lori Lockwood
- 27 Elrita Eikenhorst



GOOD SHEPHERD  
Lutheran Church

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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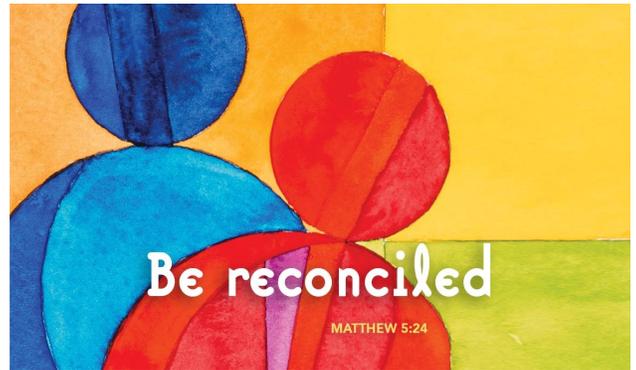
FACEBOOK: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

#### OUR MISSION

A caring Christian family following Christ,  
the GOOD SHEPHERD, where we:

**SHARE** God's Love! **GROW** our faith!  
and **SERVE** others!

## TAKE HOME ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16—FEBRUARY 23, 2020



Sixth Sunday after the  
Epiphany  
February 16, 2020

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

**The Chancel Flowers for the month of February are given by Amber Wheatley and Caleb Hayes in Memory of Amber's father Chuck Wheatley.**

**February 9, 2020**

**First Worship Service**

**Attendance: 29 Offering: \$580.00**

**Second Worship Service**

**Attendance: 25 Offering: \$693.00**

**Online Offering: \$0.00**

**MTD Income: \$6,265.18**

**MTD Expenses: \$3,791.24**

**YTD Income: \$16,676.87**

**YTD Expenses: \$17,896.14**

## TODAY

Traditional Worship — 9:00 am  
Fellowship —10:00 am  
Sunday School —10:15 am  
Children/Youth Sunday School—10:15 am  
Contemporary Worship—11:00 am  
Church Council Meeting—12:15 pm  
Beaumont Worship—3:00 pm

## MONDAY FEBRUARY 17

Orange Bible Study—12:00 pm  
Choir Practice—6:00 pm  
Bells Practice—7:15 pm

## TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18

NO Bible Study—10:00 am

## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20

Bible Study 10:00 am  
SEEK & FIND Resale—12:00 pm—6:00 pm

## FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21

Nutrition Center 10:30—1:00 pm  
SEEK & FIND Resale—12:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Fantastic Friday—5:30 pm

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22

SEEK & FIND Resale—7:30 am-1:00 pm

## SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23

Traditional Worship—9:00 am  
Fellowship —10:00 am  
Sunday School—10:15 am  
Children/Youth Sunday School—10:15 am  
Contemporary Worship—11:00 am  
Sack Lunch Ministry

## MONDAY FEBRUARY 24

Beaumont Bible Study—Ruppel Home 10:00 am

## TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25

Gumbo Meal Fundraiser 11:00 am—  
1:00 pm

## WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26

Ash Wednesday  
Ashes—Noon  
Pancake Day Dinner—5:00 pm  
Worship—6:00 pm

It's time to say, "Yes." It's time to remember that our confession doesn't end with our saying, "Yes," to our brokenness. The final word spoken is God's "yes" to us. It's a word of forgiveness and grace: "Your sins are forgiven." It has been said by some, "The church is to be a hotel for saints," but Jesus says to us, "I tell you, the church is a hospital for sinners, where all may know my forgiveness and grace."

YES, INDEED!

### **Prayer**

Create in us clean hearts, O God, to say, "Yes," to our sin and an even greater, "Yes," to your forgiving love; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Dig Deeper Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*last word*

Look for times to say "Yes."

### **GUMBO MEAL**

Our Gumbo Meal Fundraiser will be on Tuesday, February 25 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will need some volunteers to make this event run smoothly.

### **MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECT**

During the months of January, February, and March, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Bridge City - Orangefield Ministerial Alliance and Orange Christian Services. Help us help others!

### **ASH WEDNESDAY/PANCAKE DAY DINNER**

There will be imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 26 at 12:00 pm. We will have a Pancake Dinner at 5:00 pm. Then we will have Ash Wednesday worship at 6:00 pm.

### **DINING OUT**

We will have our monthly Dining Out on February 27 at Colichia's Italian Kitchen in Groves. We will meet there at 6:00 pm. Please come and join us—we always have fun and good food!

swear. So what does this have to do with me?" we might say.

The answer is, "Everything!" Who among us has not experienced a strained relationship with a family member or friend where we have hurt the other and cheapened the relationship? Who among us has not lashed out with words of anger (or deafening silence) against another?

1. *What makes it so difficult to live in relationship with others?*

2. *Many think Christian communities should be an easy place to be a Christian. Have you found that to be true or not? Explain.*

It's time to say, "Yes." Yes, we are in the midst of brokenness, each of us. God's will for our lives is to live in relationship with one another as a community in Christian love. And we know that we fail to live in that will. Even if our outward actions appear pure, our inward thoughts tell a different story. "We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves," we pray. Yes, we are sinners. That's the truth.

But it's not the whole truth. And it's time to say "Yes" to this greater truth – that the same Jesus who calls for a radical discipleship is one whose whole life and ministry was with tax collectors, prostitutes, and sinners. His life, death and resurrection are all about freeing us from the power of sin. Somehow, we lose this "Yes" too often. We are quick to condemn, quick to judge, quick to point out the brokenness of others, quick to see our own sinfulness, but not so quick to hear the "Yes" of forgiveness for ourselves and for our neighbor.

3. *What is it about human nature that makes us more inclined to condemn, judge, and point to the sinfulness of others?*

4. *Why is it difficult to hear God's "yes" to us?*

**PRAYERS ARE  
UPLIFTED FOR:**



**Edith Babcock,  
Marge Becker,  
Nancy Carlson,  
Judy Colebrook,  
Charles Darden,  
Briana Delaney,  
Ann Duwe,  
Tammi Geren,  
Shawn Hickman,  
Iris Hughes,  
Mary Mazoch,  
Dorothy McCallum,  
Nancy Meek,  
Kenri Mugleston,  
Susan Neil,  
Mark Norville,  
Family of Eleanor Olson,  
Maxine Pierce,  
Family of Randy Richardson,  
Dorothy Schmidt,  
Buddy Stelter,  
Grant Stewart,  
Beverley Swink,  
and Khris Taylor, Jr.**

### **BUILDING FUND**

Approximate cost: \$800,000.00

Collected: \$55,521.02

Funds Committed: \$138,941.63

Pledge: \$205,000.00

***Please pray about a special  
donation or commitment to the  
BUILDING VISION!***

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be a Congregational Meeting on March 8, 2020 between the 2 services. If you are interested in being nominated to be on the Church Council, please advise a Nominating Committee member (**Lisa Reeves or Grace Walhood**), the office or Pastor.

## Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

(A) – Matthew 5:21-37

**Discipleship:** *Following the Spirit of the Law*

**Focus Question:** *How is a follower of Jesus called to live?*

**word of life**

**“You have heard that it was said ... but I (Jesus) say to you ...”**  
Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34 (NRSV)

Read Matthew 5:21-37

The fifth chapter of Matthew is a continuation of the Sermon on the Mount. The sermon follows the call of the disciples (Matthew 4:18-22) and provides a handbook for discipleship. The sermon begins with comforting, peaceful, eloquent language—“Blessed are the poor in spirit ... Blessed are those who mourn ... Blessed are the peacemakers”—words of assurance and promise. The sermon continued in last week’s reading: “You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others.” These are a bit more challenging words, but they still sound of comfort and hope. We are commissioned by Jesus to be salt and light.

1. *In what ways are these verses comforting?*

2. *In what ways are they challenging?*

But today’s verses are difficult to hear. Jesus goes beyond the letter of the commandments to examine our intentions and motives behind our actions. And things begin to hit close to home.

3. *What stirs inside us as we read Matthew 5:21-37*

4. *Why does Jesus need to get so personal?*

Jesus will be criticized by the Pharisees—the keepers of the Law—many times in Matthew’s gospel for his association with tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 9:11). He will be questioned about his seeming

disregard for dietary laws and the keeping of the Sabbath (Matthew 9:14, 12:1-2). In today’s reading, he offers a radical interpretation of the Law and provides a grounding for later actions in his ministry.

Matthew 5:21-48 contains what is called the “antithesis” of the Sermon on the Mount. In this section, six times Jesus’ words about relationships in the community of the faithful followers – words about lust, anger, adultery, divorce, swearing – are held in contrast to a requirement of the Old Testament law. Each antithesis introduces a premise with the words, “You have heard that it was said,” and each is followed by an antithetical response, “But I say to you.”

5. *What would be a contemporary phrase that would convey the same intention as “you have heard it said, but I say to you”?*

6. *Do you find the repetition of this phrase helpful or not? Explain.*

Remember that Matthew is a “teaching Gospel.” Jesus is often called “Rabbi,” which means “Teacher.” As a teacher, Jesus calls for a radical reinterpretation of the commandments of the Law. He challenges his followers to go beyond a checklist of action to an examination of the heart. Following Jesus as a disciple is to look beyond the action to see the intention. And through this perspective, all have fallen short.

7. *Recall an example of looking beyond an action to the motivation of the person. Is this difficult to do? Why or why not?*

8. *How is a follower of Jesus called to live?*

**word among us**

It’s time to say, “Yes.” The temptation when we first hear these words of Jesus is to deny they are speaking to us. “I’ve never killed anyone; I’ve never committed adultery or been divorced. I (almost) never