



the scroll

a monthly publication of Sheridan Lutheran Church

February 2020

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Readiness Fund New Projects

The Readiness Fund, established in 2015, was born out of a desire to respond to God's work in the hearts and lives of Sheridan members who wish to make a difference. The current projects are:

WORSHIP CENTER RENOVATIONS- REPAIR/REFURBISH & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Opened on Christmas Eve 2003, our Worship Center is no longer new. With more than 3,900 worship services, hundreds of weddings and funerals and thousands of rehearsals, the 15 years of use has taken its toll. Well used is well-loved and our Worship Center is well-loved. A few areas of concern include:

- The chancel in front of the altar has "soft spots." The floor sags and moves in places.

- About 12 years ago a "temporary" extended platform was built. This needs to be redesigned and replaced with a permanent structure.

- The music side was designed for a choir more than a band, so it lacks necessary outlets and proper space for a Praise Band.

- Under the pews on the north side of the floor, there is a large crack in the cement where it has settled and separated.

This renovation has a goal of \$200,000. A generous anonymous donor has pledged a matching gift. We need to raise \$100,000 to receive the gift



Nuru School cafeteria progress photo from last fall. The project is now complete and will be dedicated this February.

Nuru School at Karansi

IN 2010 PASTOR JOSHUA LAISER, from our Karansi sister parish in Tanzania, shared with us his vision to expand the small, fledgling Nuru School. In 2011 Sheridan raised funds to construct buildings to expand this ministry. The need for a stronger school in the area was evident and as soon as it was built, Nuru School grew to nearly 400 students.

Nuru School is the only "English Primary School" in the area. This means that all of the teaching happens in English. This is rare in Tanzania as Swahili is the national language and many of the families in that region speak various dialects. Nuru has not just grown numerically, but also in quality. National test scores indicate that Nuru is one of the best schools in all of Tanzania! Nuru School is thriving! The exception is with their facilities.

Two years ago Pastor Joshua gave us a vision for a dining hall that would serve as a place for meals, but also a large gathering room for the students. Currently, students are fed breakfast and lunch at Nuru School, and a single cook in a small hut cooks over an open fire. The students eat sitting on the ground or the roots of a tree. Unfortunately, during the rain, the students have little shelter and the ground becomes mud.

Your gifts to the Readiness Fund have made possible the new dining hall which will be dedicated on Sunday, February 16. Pastor Greg and a delegation of six members of Sheridan will attend.

We give thanks for your gifts. We praise God that Pastor Joshua, the Karansi Parish and the teachers at Nuru School are making the love of Jesus real to God's children. Please keep our group in your prayers as they travel and we pray that the pure faith of our Tanzanian brothers and sisters may, indeed, be experienced in our hearts.

Church family support and news

FIRST STEPS BAPTISM CLASS

The next First Steps Baptism Class is Sunday, Feb. 23 at 11am in the church office Conference Room. This class is for those wanting to have their children baptized at Sheridan. You may schedule your child's baptism with the office prior to attending the class.

WEDDINGS

Interested in holding your wedding at Sheridan?

Visit sheridanlutheran.org/weddings Contact k.znamenacek@sheridanlutheran.org for scheduling or other questions.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Members of the visitation team make daily visits to Lincoln area hospitals to offer support, encouragement and prayer. Call the church at 402-423-4769 to schedule a visit. Please do not rely on the hospital to notify the church.

FOR THOSE GRIEVING OR PLANNING FUNERALS

Please contact Karen in the church office at 402-423-4769.

PASTORAL CARE

Contact the church office at 402-423-4769 during business hours: 8am - 5pm; Monday-Friday. In case of emergencies (death of a loved one or if immediate assistance is needed) after hours call 402-423-4769 and press option 4.

If you have a baptism, birth, wedding, sympathy or other milestone to share, please call the church office at 402-423-4769. We are happy to share your news with our church family in the monthly Scroll. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month.

Baptisms

Elise Virginia Flohr daughter of Ron & Megan;
Camilla Celeste Sanchini daughter of Silvano & Sarah Beth;
Kipten Otto Weyers son of Ashley;
Ashley Nicole Weyers

With Sympathy

Kathy (Randy) Dolezal on the death of mother Roma Basler;
Justin (Jen) Coon family on the death of father/grandfather Verl Coon;
Brenda (Mike) Carpenter, Todd (Nancy) Hoppe, Nancy Lowe, Mollie (Ty) Anderson, Meghan & Maddie Carpenter, Alex Lowe families on the death of mother/grandmother Maxine Hoppe;
Loyd & Dee Koch on the death of daughter-in-law Susan Koch;
Julianne (Eric) Spry family on the death of mother Anna Meyer;
Rich (Amanda) Prokasky family on the death of father/grandfather Mike Prokasky.

Gone for the Winter?

Contact: k.wittig@sheridanlutheran.org

If you plan to be away from Lincoln for several months during the winter, please provide the church with your temporary address to enable us to send mail directly to you.

Soup-tacular Youth Fundraiser

Sun., Feb. 2; 10:45am; Family Life Center

If you love chili and soup, join us! All are welcome to enjoy this event! Your free-will offering supports our youth ministry program.

Welcome January New Members!

Fourty-four new members joined our family of faith in January. They are: Mark, Melissa, Madison & Mason Ash; Cory, Emily, Halle Jo & Ava Claussen; Joel, Michelle, Spencer & Emma Dageman; Matthew, Rebecca, Natalie & Nicholas Diekmann; Chris, Heather, Ava & Keagan Freeman; Justin, Christy, Alyssa & Alex Hash; Anthony, Dale & Beatrix Heidtbrink; Michael, Christina, Kenneth & Luke Miller; Samantha Nelson, Dale Schindler; Brett, Brittany, Hank & Mack Schuster; Steve Swanson & Julie Wallace-Swanson; Dawn Tryon; Gregory & Jody Yank and Renae & Brandon Sieck.

Holy Week Reenactment

Info: d.dames@sheridanlutheran.org

Sheridan's Drama Ministry will share dramas and reenact the last days of Jesus' life during Lent and Holy Week. All those interested in speaking and non-speaking roles, props, costumes, makeup or tech are welcome to be a part of this exciting ministry. Rehearsals are held Sunday & Thursday evenings beginning Feb. 16.

Blood Drive

Sat., Feb. 15; 9am-noon; parking lot

Sign up online: ncbb.org (sponsor code SHER) or call 402-486-9414
Nebraska Community Blood Bank is holding a Blood Drive at Sheridan. Walk-ins are welcome!

Worship with us

SATURDAY 5:30pm	SUNDAY 8:30, 9:45am; 11am	WEDNESDAY 6pm
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HOLY COMMUNION is served on Saturday evening and 8:30am each Sunday as well as at 9:45am and 11am on February 9 & 23. Learn more about worship online: sheridanlutheran.org/worship-schedule

NURSERY is available on Sundays from 9:30am – noon

MISS WORSHIP? SERMON & SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEOS can be watched on Sheridan's Vimeo channel at vimeo.com/sheridanluthlnk. You may also watch a condensed version of our weekend worship on Spectrum channel 1302 on Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays at 12:30pm and Sundays at 11:30am.

Ash Wednesday & Midweek Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday Worship with Ashes and Holy Communion

FEBRUARY 26 | Noon, 6pm, 7:15pm

Dinner: 5-6pm; there are no education classes on Ash Wednesday.

Wednesdays in Lent

MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25, APRIL 1

Dinner: 5pm | Worship: 6pm | Faith Formation: 6:45-7:30pm

THE LUTHERAN CENTER - MISSIONS

In 2015, The Lutheran Center at UNL embarked on their "Cross at the Heart" Campaign. Centered on the vitally important need to replace their aging and failing facility, their goal was to raise \$6 million dollars over three years, in which we donated \$150,000. When successfully completed, this campaign will yield both a beautiful new home to reach students on campus and a stream of income to secure the future of this ministry. More fundraising was needed to complete this project, and we were asked to consider an additional gift to help with the campaign.

We hope to contribute an additional \$50,000 to help The Lutheran Center reach their fundraising goal.

In 2 Corinthians 8:12, the Apostle Paul writes, "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have." The Greek translation indicates, that if our hearts are ready, then we give as we should. Our Council and staff are ready. Are you ready?

Family Fellowship Events

RSVP online: sheridanlutheran.org/children-events

- Grades 3 & 4: Sun., Feb. 9; 3-5pm; Breslow Ice Hockey Center

Cost: \$3.50 age 12 & under/\$4.50 adults. Price includes skate rental.

Families with students in grades 3 & 4 are invited. Please RSVP by Feb. 7.

- Grades 1 & 2: Fri., Feb. 28; 6-8pm; Cooper YMCA

Cost: \$5/person; includes pizza.

Families with students in grades 1 & 2 are invited to a fun evening at the Cooper YMCA pool and gym. Please RSVP by Feb. 26. Because this is a private event, Y memberships can't be used for this event.

December 2019 Financials:

INCOME	
General Fund	\$296,690
Mission	\$91,954
Sunday School YTD	\$4,203
Readiness Fund YTD	\$167,907
Magnificent Gifts 2019	\$62,691.18
• Pine Ridge	\$13,489.55
• Greater Church	\$11,893.19
• Barnabas	\$37,308.44
BUDGET	
General Fund	\$254,163

December 2019 Attendance:

	WEEK	WKND	WKLY
Nov. 30/Dec. 1	391	1,060	1,451
December 8/9	443	1,349	1,792
December 15/16	389	945	1,334
December 22/23	417	979	1,396
December 29/30	3,355*	711	4,097
2019 average	1,009	2,014	
2018 average	1,036	1,971	

*includes Christmas Eve

In-Kind Donations

DONATION BINS

These bins are located in the Great Hall and are used to collect special items each month. See page 6 for more details.

CLINIC WITH A HEART continually needs personal care items such as shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste and body soap.

BARNABAS COMMUNITY is in need of in-season clothing for all sizes. Please bring all items for Barnabas to the vestibule beyond the Chapel.

Cash donations are always welcome and needed to meet immediate needs. Please mark all financial contributions "Clinic with a Heart" or "Barnabas Community."

think about it.



SLC offers educational programs for children and adults. For a full listing of programs, visit us online at sheridanlutheran.org or call the church office.

Adult Groups & Studies

• SATURDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Feb. 8 & 22; 7:30am; Retreat Center

This biweekly study is facilitated by Wes Oestreich.

• SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sundays; 9:45am; Conference Room

Facilitated by Julie Johnson. Join anytime. Bring a Bible.

• PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Thurs., Feb. 6; 1:30pm; Room 828

A support group for anyone diagnosed with Parkinson's or who is a care giver for someone with Parkinson's. Glen Schumann and Linda Hirschfeld lead this group.

• MEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Mon., Feb. 10; 6:30pm; Conference Room

This group allows men who are currently experiencing cancer to share concerns, promote hope and receive support from each other.

Watch the website, bulletin and Scroll for future class offerings.

Lunch Table Theology

Thursdays at noon

These are groups with a simple purpose; eat lunch together and talk theology. Participants are invited to discuss the theology of the Ten Commandments. Join a discussion group today.

- LUNCH TABLE THEOLOGY EAST - Meets

Grow Spiritually: Winter Learning Academy



Wednesdays, Feb. 5, 12 & 19; 6:30-7:30pm

Sheridan's Learning Academy on Wednesday nights is a great way for adults to make a three-week commitment to grow in faith and knowledge. Come and explore a topic of learning for three weeks alongside our confirmation students. Each class is as unique in its presenter and activities as it is in topic.

Adults can choose from:

- BIBLE 101 - Taught by Pastor Rhonda Bostrom.
- THE BEST BIBLE STORIES OF KING DAVID - Taught by Pastor Eric Bostrom.
- EVENING WORSHIP EXPERIENCES - Facilitated by Ian Hartfield.
- SABBATH KEEPING, WHO'S ASKING FOR 'ME' TIME? Taught by Deacon Kathy Paisley.
- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LUTHERAN? Taught by Pastor Michelle Oetken.

FULL CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND ROOM LOCATIONS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT SHERIDANLUTHERAN.ORG/ADULT-EDUCATION-CLASSES OR AT THE WELCOME CENTER. PLEASE JOIN US.

Feb. 6 at Rock-N-Joe's.

• LUNCH TABLE THEOLOGY CENTRAL -

Meets Feb. 13 at Whole Foods.

• LUNCH TABLE THEOLOGY SOUTH -

Meets Feb. 20 at Art & Soul.

• LUNCH TABLE THEOLOGY

DOWNTOWN - Meets Feb. 27 at The Foundry.

SOLOS Event: Savory & Sweets Valentine's Party

Fri., Feb. 14; 6pm; Room 316

RSVP: k.paisley@sheridanlutheran.org

A fellowship event for single women age 50+. Bring a savory or sweet snack to share as we enjoy the movie **BOOKCLUB**.

Winter Book Discussion

EDUCATED by Tara Westover

Wed., Feb. 19; 6:30-

7:30pm; Conference Room

Books are available in

OneSent for \$14 + tax

This memoir is a

fascinating story of

Tara's childhood in the

home of survivalist

parents, isolated from

mainstream society,

never setting foot in

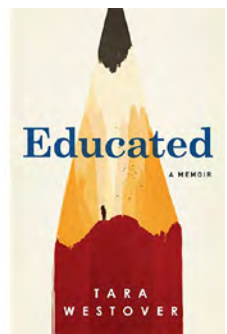
a classroom until she was 17. Tara

goes on to take responsibility for her

education, eventually earning multiple

degrees and becoming an award

winning author and historian.



Sponsor our 2020 Youth Mission Trip

2020 Youth Mission Trip

Envelope Fundraiser - Envelopes available Feb. 9-23

From July 3-12, 49 high school youth, 10 caring adult leaders along with 3 college-age students from Sheridan are traveling to Lutheranch Camp and serving near Atlanta.

Consider sponsoring our group by visiting the display in the Great Hall to pick up an envelope with a designated donation amount and a list of participants in which to keep in prayer. Simply take an envelope and return it with the amount notated on the front. Our goal this year is \$12,500. Our group will keep you updated throughout the trip with postcards and letters and after our return, we will hold an appreciation banquet to celebrate and share our experiences!

EXPERIENCES LIKE THESE ARE ONLY MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF GIVERS LIKE YOU. PLEASE RETURN YOUR ENVELOPE WITH YOUR DONATION BEFORE MARCH 1.

If you have questions about this experience, contact Ian Hartfield at i.hartfield@sheridanlutheran.org.

Register your child and sign up to volunteer online at the website above beginning Feb. 15. Please note: due to construction in our Worship Center this summer, we regrettably need to limit the number of participants to 300. Registration will close May 17 or when capacity is reached.

Faith Stepping Stones

- Sat., Feb. 15; 9:30am OR Sun., Feb. 16; 8-9:30am: The Lord's Prayer (1st Grade)
- Sat., Feb. 22; 9:30am OR Sun., Feb. 23; 8-9:30am: The Ten Commandments (2nd Grade)

Register and more info: sheridanlutheran.org/faith-stepping-stones

Each workshop centers around a faith milestone for children and their parents to experience together. The morning includes time for learning, interactive prayer stations and a keepsake craft. Families are invited to attend worship the weekend of the Stepping Stones class as children will be invited forward during worship for a blessing.

To help with class sizes, please let us know you plan to attend by signing up online using the link above. *Families may still participate regardless if you sign up.* Older children are able to attend workshops missed from previous years. Child care is available for siblings upon request.

Middle School Lock-in

Fri., March 6 - Sat., March 7; 8pm - 8am

Cost: \$25 | Deadline: Sun., Feb. 26

Info: sheridanlutheran.org/event-registration

Don't miss the middle school (grades 6-8) lock-in at Carol Joy Holling Camp! We will gather at the western town at Carol Joy Holling Camp in Ashland. Friends are welcome! Contact Ian at i.hartfield@sheridanlutheran.org with questions. Come for a fun evening with new friends. Don't forget your sleeping bag and pillow.

Children's Ministry Classes

Learn more about all of our opportunities for children and register on our website: sheridanlutheran.org/childrens-ministry. New children and friends are always welcome, join us!

• SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

Opportunities for children age 3 - grade 5 in the Children's Ministry wing.

• SUNDAYS AT 11AM

Opportunities for children age 3 - grade 5. Children start in worship with parents and then go to class following the Children's Message.

• WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM

Opportunities for children age 18 months - grade 5 following Wednesdays @ the Well worship at 6pm.

High School Youth Ministry

Info: i.hartfield@sheridanlutheran.org

• SUNDAYS AT 11AM

Small group conversation centered on relevant topics and scripture.

• WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM

Time for faith formation, group building and more.

• HIGH SCHOOL COFFEE HOURS

TUES., FEB. 4; 2-4PM

Meet at Panera (14th & Pine Lake).

• YOUTH PROGRESSIVE DINNER

SUN., FEB. 16; 4-8PM

Great fellowship event. We will meet at Sheridan at 4pm and travel to our host homes for a four-course meal - appetizers, salad/soup, main course, and dessert - one course at each of four homes!

Vacation Bible School

June 8-12; 9am-noon

Register: sheridanlutheran.org/vbs

Summer is coming and so is VBS! Vacation Bible School is a special, high energy week specifically designed for children, age 4 - grade 5 (current school year). Come and discover that trusting Jesus pulls you through life's ups and downs.

New! Pine Ridge Vision Trip for College Age

May 16-22; Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

Cost: \$299

Register: sheridanlutheran.org/event-registration

College age students, take a break after the second semester and spend a week with our mission partners in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. This trip will take you through the sandhills of Nebraska, onto the rolling hills and valleys of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The week combines American History, learning about the Lakota people who once dominated the Midwestern landscape and the Lakota who currently live on the reservation. You will learn the history, how American Indians teach it, viewing the European expansion of the 1800's looking eastward. For this mission trip, participants will learn the value of listening to Lakota tribal elders, learning from artists, and the ministry happening at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. You will encounter buffalo, sacred burial grounds, porcupine quill artists, and much more

PLEASE SIGN UP ONLINE BY MARCH 1. CONTACT PASTOR MICHELLE OETKEN AT M.OETKEN@SHERIDANLUTHERAN.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Connections Café

Sun. 9:30am-noon; Wed. 6:30-7:45pm

When you purchase a delicious specialty drink or coffee from Connections Café you support families who are struggling with homelessness at Lincoln Public Schools. Enjoy a cup today and know that a portion of your purchase helps a student!

Also, any tips received this month go to support Sheridan's retreat scholarships.

Noisy Offering this month

This special offering for children during worship benefits the work of Clinic with a Heart. This offering ensures those in Lincoln on the margins can receive much needed health care.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Feb. 1 & 2; following each worship service

On this weekend when we gather to watch football and eat our favorite indulgent foods, we remember many in our country and the world go hungry. We also remember our

ministry partners who serve to end hunger in our communities. Following worship on Feb. 1 & 2, people will be stationed in the Great Hall holding soup pots. Proceeds benefit Barnabas Community Meal Ministry, Matt Talbot 4th Friday Supper Meal, and the families of Haiti VBS 2020.

Up In Out Camp

June 8-12; noon-4:30pm; lunch is provided

Cost: \$50/participant

Info: i.hartfield@sheridanlutheran.org

This experience pairs great with VBS and begins with lunch and a devotion before heading out for hands-on service learning opportunities. Because Pastor Michelle is on sabbatical this summer, this year's camp is for youth currently in grades 5-8. Space is limited.

Now Collecting in the Donation Bins

Hygiene Kits: Place in a one gallon re-sealable bag: two washcloths, two bars of soap, two toothbrushes, one full size toothpaste, one full size deodorant &

one wide tooth comb.

Please place any of the above items in the Donation Bins during the month of February.

Prayer Corner for Sheridan Mission Partners

Please remember our mission partners in prayer this month:

- **MISSION TEAMS** – For our mission teams traveling to Tanzania for the Nuru Cafeteria dedication and Marathon, Florida for Habitat, safe travel and God's blessings.
- **HAITI** – For our mission partners, especially as civil unrest calmed down and work/school resumes.
- **PINE RIDGE RECONCILIATION CENTER** – For Pastor Eric Bostrom & Jim Simeck helping with the remodel of the kitchen at the center.
- **BARNABAS COMMUNITY** – For the meal ministry.

Mission Teams this month

Sheridan is sending out two teams this month. Please keep team members in prayer along with our ministry partners:

- **TANZANIA MISSION TEAM:** Pastor Greg and Rose Bouvier, Dani Davis, Ashley Dunn, Lynn & Sherrill Echterkamp, Koren Plummer, Tami Russman and Judy Sorensen. This team will visit our two ministry partner parishes, Mudio and Karansi, and will participate in the dedication of the Nuru School Cafeteria.
- **HABITAT/THRIVENT BUILDS:** This team will work in Marathon, FL on some Hurricane Irma repairs: Phil Euler, Pam Gannon, Gary King, Catherine Nixon, Jim & Jody Simeck, Amy Wagner and Marla Zoz.

OneSent Market Carries Chocolate

Stop by the OneSent Market to pick up some fair trade Divine Chocolate for your sweetie this Valentine's Day.

Don't Miss It: Men's Quarterly Breakfast



SAT., FEB. 15 // 7:30AM

Men's Breakfast

Sat., Feb. 15; 7:30am; Family Life Center

Speaker: Max Graves, Executive Director of Center for Legal Immigration Assistance

Men of all ages are invited to come for good food, fellowship and our guest speaker, Max Graves, Executive Director of Center for Legal Immigration Assistance. CLIA provides legal assistance to immigrants and refugees in our community. Come and learn what life is like for immigrants and refugees in Lincoln, many of whom come to The Barnabas Community. You are encouraged to invite someone to come with you. There will be a freewill offering to cover the cost of the breakfast.

PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME CENTER OR BY CONTACTING PASTOR ERIC BOSTROM AT E.BOSTROM@SHERIDANLUTHERAN.ORG.

Open Mic Night

Fri., Jan. 31; 7-9pm; Room 316

Info: m.schmit@sheridanlutheran.org

Come and share your talents – singing, instrumental playing, dancing, poetry or acting - while enjoying coffee, smoothies and snacks from the Connections Café. This is a night of music, fellowship and fun for all. Anyone is welcome to attend and perform. Contact Molly Schmit with questions.

Cards & Games

Sun., Feb. 2; noon-3pm; Connections Cafe

Info: c.peterson@sheridanlutheran.org

Join us for the Soup-tacular at noon, followed by cards until 3pm. All ages are welcome.

Safeguarding God's Children: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

Sat., Feb. 8; 9:30-11:30am; Room 316

Info: sheridanlutheran.org/safeguarding

For more than 10 years, each of Sheridan's staff, council and volunteers working with children and youth have completed Safeguarding God's Children training. If you are a new volunteer for children & youth ministries, including VBS, mission trips or have not completed the training in the last three years, now is the time to do it. Parents are also encouraged to participate in this training. We can all be trained eyes and ears in this effort to protect children.

Second Quarter Events

Info: facebook.com/groups/secondquarter

Second Quarter is an open group for people mid-20s and 30s who are excited to love our community deeply and grow spiritually with other Christ followers. Be sure to join the Facebook group to stay up to date on events.

- **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

SUN., FEB. 9; NOON; CONNECTIONS CAFE'

Join us on the second Sunday each month for coffee & conversation following 11am worship.

- **SERVICE EVENT**

MON., FEB. 17; 6:30PM; GREAT ROOM

Come enjoy time together and assemble hygiene kits for Barnabas Community guests. Hygiene items are needed as well: toothbrushes, toothpaste, socks, soap, etc.

Adult Choir Opportunity

Wednesdays, beginning March 4; 7:30pm

Info: m.schmit@sheridanlutheran.org

The Celebration Choir will sing during the Holy Week services as a part of worship. We are looking for many singers to join us for this amazing music and worship opportunity. It is open to all singers – high school age on up are invited to participate. Holy Week worship is Maundy Thursday & Good Friday, April 9 & 10; 7pm.

Spring Women's Brunch

Sat., March 21; 10am - noon; Great Room

Cost: \$10 includes a meal

RSVP: sheridanlutheran.org/event-registration

The Women's Ministry Team invites women of all ages and stages of life to a Spring Brunch. Be inspired to develop solid sisterhood relationships with other women. Our speaker, Missie Bonser, brings humor, music and faithful teaching to this topic of friendship. Reservations are required and can be made online. Child care is provided.

Contact us:

Phone: 402-423-4769

Email: info@sheridanlutheran.org

Website: sheridanlutheran.org

Church Leadership:

For a complete staff and council listing, please visit our website at sheridanlutheran.org.

2020 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President: Darin Sperling

Vice President: Brent Luetchens

Secretary: Hilary Wiese

Treasurer: Rachel Ficek

LEADERSHIP STAFF

Senior Pastor: Greg Bouvier

Associate Pastor: Eric Bostrom

Associate Pastor: Rhonda Bostrom

Associate Pastor: Michelle Oetken

Deacon: Kathy Paisley

Director of Business & Finance:

Jean Poppert

Director of Worship Arts:

Molly Schmit

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Find sermons online:

sheridanlutheran.org/media-resources/sermon-podcasts

Publication Submissions

Bulletin submissions are due each Tuesday at 5pm.

Please email submissions to Genny Straube at g.straube@sheridanlutheran.org.

Scroll deadline is the first Monday of the month 5pm. Please email submissions to Amy Wagner at a.wagner@sheridanlutheran.org.

A Good Shepherd

by Pastor Greg Bouvier



Boy carrying a goat on a road in the Tanzanian countryside.

Each time I travel to our sister parish in Tanzania, Karansi Lutheran, Pastor Joshua Laiser takes me on some kind of adventure. Karansi is a small town on the edge of civilization. It would be much like a small town on the edge of the sandhills region of Nebraska.

On our last trip, our jaunts in the wilderness were often halted because of a cattle and/or goat drive. In Tanzania, herds of cattle and goats are led by kids. I'm quite unsure why the adults allow their kids to do this task, but it is common to see eight-year-olds leading in this way.

The displayed photo was my favorite from my last trip. Here we have a young boy, taking up the back of the drive, holding onto a small, weak goat. He is equipped with his tools for work and has likely spent hours in the hot and dry day. His compassion is what struck me. This boy is a "good shepherd."

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
John 10:11*

One pet-peeve of mine is how much we have "altered" Jesus. I would say this is especially true regarding his appearance. I had a seminary professor remark about the phenomenon of the "GQ Jesus." I believe this to be true. Most renderings of Jesus we see in our American culture show a perfectly flawless, European-looking "gentleman." And while on one hand, I get why this happens – the intentions of respect it delivers – mostly I'm saddened that we've sanitized Jesus. We have twisted Jesus into our image, rather than making ourselves into the image of Jesus.

Honestly, this humble Tanzanian boy has more in common with Jesus than the striking images and artist renderings that we hold so dear. This boy is a good shepherd. He cares, with great sacrifice to himself (seriously, think about smell and filth of carrying a goat!). Even more, this boy is living out his calling.

Would someone ever characterize you as "a good shepherd?" If someone took a photo of you at work, would they say you look like Jesus? I pray it be so.

Submit Your God Sighting

We try to highlight a member of our Sheridan community who has made God's love and grace come clearly into sight. If you have a story of a God-sighting to suggest, please email info@sheridanlutheran.org.