

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

PINEWOOD DERBY



Twenty-one cars are preparing for race day on Saturday, March 11th beginning at 3:00pm. Weigh in will be held Sunday, March 5th after the worship service.

Families are asked to bring a snack to share with the group. Feel free to join us for an afternoon of fun in the fast lane!

MUSIC ADDITION

The church council recently approved purchasing an extra octave of chimes to add to our worship services. These were purchased with the Harriett Rockafellow memorials.

Special thanks to the youth who are excited and enjoying expanding their musical abilities.

COLLEGE CARE

The College Care Committee was able to prepare Valentine boxes/bags for our college students. They have

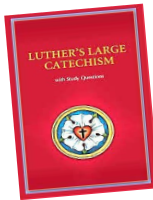
also added MLS students to the list who live away from home.

A bucket has been put in the narthex for continued donations. Thank you, to those who helped this past month by including some goodies for our students!

Please continue to keep these special members in your prayers.

BIBLE CLASS

Our Sunday morning Bible



Class is currently studying the Large Catechism in recognition of the 500

Reformation.

Each family has received their own study manual to work on at home and use on Sunday mornings.

It has been a great study for our members as we tie Luther's thoughts and Scripture to our everyday situations. You are welcome to join us in hearing what Luther has written for our learning.



HEARING LOOP

A reminder that Good Shepherd has a hearing loop system for anyone wishing to use one during Bible Class or Worship on Sunday morning. Individuals are able to keep the same loop from week to week. It can be used with or without hearing aids. Feel free to speak with an Elder on Sunday morning if you wish to try one. Some of our members have had great results.



REMINDER

March 12 begins Daylight Savings time! This means we need to move our clocks ahead one hour.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday	10:15am
Maundy Thur.	7:00pm
Good Friday	12:00pm
Easter Breakfast	8:30am
Easter Worship	10:15am

NOTE: There will be NO Adult Bible Class or Treasure Hunt on Easter morning.



MARCH—APRIL 2017

THE PARISH NEWSLETTER OF GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH ALMA, MI



REFORMATION 500

On January 29th, we were blessed to have our first "hymn sing" of Martin Luther's hymns. Our next "hymn sing" will be held Sunday, April 30th during our worship service.

"Where in the Church is Martin Luther?" has been a fun activity for the children in the congregation. Willow Thomas was our first spy who found the Lego Luther hiding in the building. This activity will be held on Sunday mornings only for all the children in the congregation. Each children will receive their own Luther Lego

Our Lenten Theme has begun! "Standing at the Cross" is helping us focus on portions of

Luther's sermons as we contemplate the ways in which we stand firm in the faith as followers of Christ during this holy season.

The Education Committee has begun working on our special Vacation Bible School! Adults and children will study the special nature of God's grace as given to us through our Lutheran history and teaching.

One of our guest speakers this year will be Professor Bill Tackmier from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin. Pastor Tackmier served congregations in Owosso and St. Louis, Michigan and Citrus Heights, California before being called to the Seminary.

Our building construction has

begun. Our thanks to Sandy Sheldon and Heidi McDaid who are building some Reformation historical buildings. The Wartburg Castle is our first building!

The history display case has been filled with many Luther items including the complete book set of Luther Works. The education wing hallway also has a display of "Martin Luther the Man" for your learning.

And finally, the Northern and Southwest Conference will hold a special 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 4:00pm at the Temple Theater in Saginaw, MI. As details are finalized we will notify you of them.



LENTEN SEASON

Our Lenten season has begun. Ash Wednesday we were able to offer two worship services to our members and visitors.

Our theme this year "Standing at the Cross" will continue every Sunday morning. We will be given the opportunity to stand at the cross:

...in prayer
...unafraid
...in suffering
...through persecution
...in truth
...in humility
...in faith
...in forgiveness
...IN VICTORY!

Come and stand with us!

RESURRECTION MEMORIALS



If you would like to supply a "Resurrection Memorial" for your loved one or ones, this Easter, please fill out one of the forms located by the church mailboxes no later than March 26th. You may give your payment/form to either Sandy Sheldon or the church office. A complete list will be included in our Easter service folder.

SHEPHERDING ELDERS

Our elders have been meeting to discuss a number of issues that focus on our members here at Good Shepherd. Over

the last several months they have been focusing on safety issues. This month the Council approved the elders recommendation to purchase an AED machine to be housed in our building should an emergency arise to help save a person's life.

The Elders also hope to offer a CPR/First Aid class sometime after Easter.

The church council also approved the recommendation to have door locks changed. This was done on March 2nd. The Elders will be developing and maintaining a plan on access to the building.

The Elders have also been studying Confessional Fellowship.

We welcome Ray and Norma Welch from Alma, MI. They have requested a membership transfer from the sunny state of Florida where they go during the winter months. We welcome them to our flock!

Pastor Eich has also started an Adult Information Class on Thursday evenings. There are currently 10 people both members and non-members taking the class.

PROPERTY

Two new trees were recently planted just west of the parking lot. The tree on the south was planted in memory of Roger Smith by his family. The tree on the north end was a replacement tree that broke off in a storm last Fall. This tree was

originally planted in memory of Helen Heine by her children.



At the last voter's meeting it was approved to do painting and carpet in the parsonage. This work is in the very early stages.

On Saturday, February 18th a pipe in the fire suppression broke and caused water damage in the nursery and back of the sanctuary. The insurance company was contacted immediately. An insurance adjuster and contractors met the following week to determine the amount of damage.

Thankfully Kevin Beeson was present in the building doing some repairs when the alarms and water were set off. The whole building could have sustained significant damage.

YTD Budgetary Finances Thru February 28, 2017

Member Budgetary Support Received:

(General, Loose, New Beginnings, Misc. General Fund) \$ 38,996.61

TOTAL Member Support Expected at this time : \$ 39,141.00
Budgetary shortfall: \$- 144.39



YTD Actual Income received thru 2/28/17: \$ 38,996.61

YTD Actual Income thru 2/28/17: \$ 38,863.14

YTD Income in excess of Expense: \$ 133.47

YTD Savings Account Income/Expense Summary (Non-Budgetary)

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Bal. 1-1-17</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Bal. 2-28-17</u>
Church Projects:	\$ 72,788.02	\$1,410.00	\$4,327.83	\$ 69,870.19
YES Fund:	\$ 10,193.30	\$ - 0 -	\$ -0-	\$ 10,193.30
Scholarship:	\$ 43,690.21	\$ 69.00	\$ -0-	\$ 43,759.21
Reserve:	\$ 5,136.91	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 5,136.91
		Savings Account Balance:		<u>\$ 128,959.61</u>

CMO Goal : \$18,000.00

LACE Loan Balance: \$594,585.08

YTD Received: \$1,560.00

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY UPDATES:

Everyone is welcome to the Children's Theater performance of *Aesop's (Oh So Slightly Updated) Fables* on Saturday, March 11, at 7:00pm. The performance will be held in the chapel/auditorium. No tickets are required; however, there will be a free-will offering to defray expenses.

Pastor Eich recently shared God's word with the students of MLS on Monday, February 27th during their daily chapel service.

Youth in grades 6-8th are once again invited to the MLS Lock In which will be held Friday, April 28- Saturday, April 29. Pastor Eich distributed the information material to the catechism students. If anyone is in need of more information feel free to contact MLS @ 989-793-1010.