

Good Shepherd News & Notes

(Baptism of Our Lord) January 10, 2021

3825 Wildbriar Ln., Lincoln, NE 68516

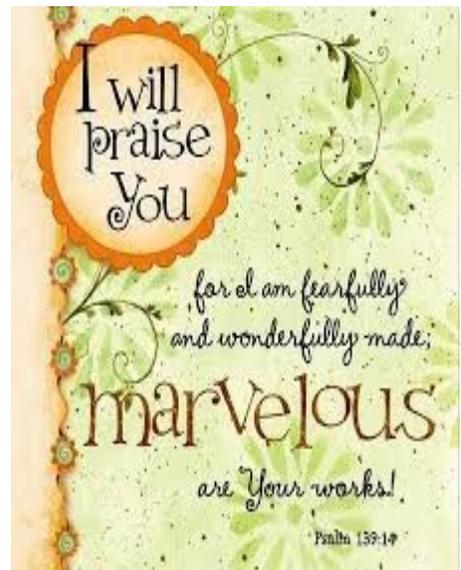
Church Office: (402) 423-7639

E-mail: info@goodshepherdlincoln.org

Website: www.goodshepherdlincoln.org

KNNA radio: 95.7FM or www.thecross957.org

Services broadcast live Sundays at 8 am & 10:30 am
and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm



GOD'S KNITTING ROOM

Reading Psalm 139 can be a little frightening because you quickly realize God knows all about you! He knows where you are, what you're doing, what you're thinking, and what you're going to say before you say it (v. 14)! You also realize that there is no place you can go to escape this all-knowing God. *"Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run to get away from you?"* (v. 7). It is almost like Psalm 139 is God's version of George Orwell's 1984 poster, "Big Brother is Watching You"!

God is not watching as "Big Brother" but as your Creator. God knows you because He made you. *"You alone created my inner being"* (v. 13). Here David uses very intimate language. "Created my inner being" is a Hebrew idiom that could be translated, "You made my kidneys"! The kidneys were the last organs removed in the sacrificial process. They denote the very depth of who you are — your "inner being." Clearly, God was intimately involved in making you who you are from the beginning.

Next David uses delicate language. *"You knitted me together inside my mother"* (v. 13). "Knitted" means to

"cover" or "fence in." There is a progression. God created your very essence (your inner being), and then wove or knitted a covering for "you" — your body. This also seems to confirm the biological process for procreation that God established. You were uniquely "you" at the moment of your conception. Cell division begins and your "covering" — your body — develops.

We know, of course, that God does not have tiny knitting needles that he uses inside a uterus. However, guided by the Holy Spirit, David paints a picture of God's intimate and delicate involvement in the formation of life from the moment of conception. As many people know, weaving or knitting is delicate work. It takes concentration to make sure the right strands go in the right place to produce the pattern that will lead to a recognizable whole. The scarf that your grandma knit is not only beautiful because of the amazing pattern of the woven threads, it is beautiful and valuable because of the hands that made it. Your life is amazingly beautiful and valuable, not only because of the miraculous complexity of your body, but because of the hands of your Creator.

PRE WALK FOR LIFE SERVICE

A worship service will be offered at Trinity Lutheran Church (724 S. 12th St.) from 9-9:30 am in the sanctuary. This will be an opportunity for us to turn to God's Word and hear His voice for Life. Following the service, we are invited to participate in the Walk for Life (see below) Please come and be a voice for life, whether in prayer or as one of those who walk. Please wear a face covering while in worship and make sure to bundle up.

NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE

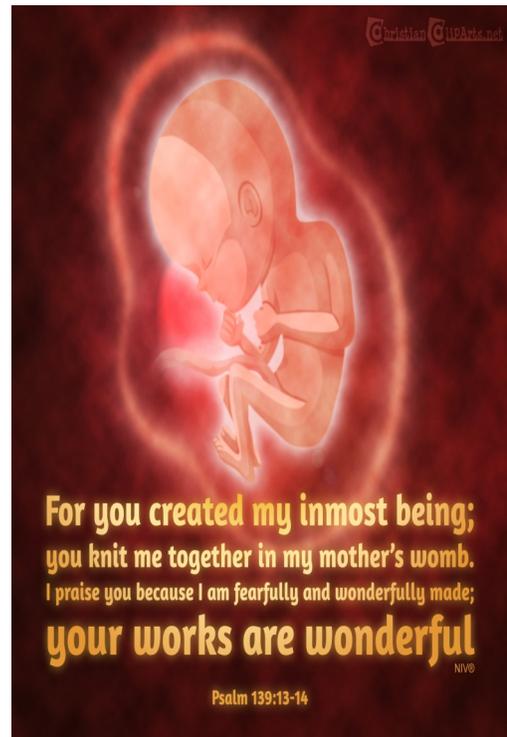
The Nebraska Walk for Life will be on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021 in Lincoln at the state capitol and the Newman Center. The walk begins at 10 am on the north steps of the Nebraska State Capitol. From there, the gathered will walk to the Newman Center, 320 N. 16th St., where our keynote speaker, Sarah Zagorski, will speak at noon.

Sarah's story is one of survival, hope, and healing. She was one of 11 siblings living in extreme poverty, endured sexual abuse and Louisiana's foster care system, and was adopted at age 9 by a loving family. Sarah understands what a gift life is and also how hard it can be. She loves to share her story and her passion for life with her audiences.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, we will follow the current CDC guidelines of physical distancing, hand-washing, sanitizing, staying home if sick, and wearing a mask. Sanitation and masks will be available.

Event schedule may be subject to cancellation depending on COVID-19. Please see Nebraska Walk for Life on Facebook for notifications and updates.

Join the largest, longest-running First Amendment demonstration against abortion in the state.



VICARAGE FUND

The vicarage program serves several purposes. It helps to provide a variety of experiences for the seminary student which help to form and shape the pastor he will become. It also assists the pastors here to meet the needs of the ministry at Good Shepherd. The deadline for Good Shepherd to apply to receive a vicar for the August 2021—July 2022 year is March 1, 2021. In order to move ahead with this application Good Shepherd will need to receive a total of \$20,000 in specific donations by January 31, 2021. There are envelopes with a yellow stripe in your contribution envelope box for donations to the vicar fund or envelopes labeled "Good Shepherd Vicarage Fund" at the offering stand for anyone wishing to make a donation. Thank you for your support of the vicarage program at Good Shepherd.

USHERS

New usher schedules are in the usher closet for all ushers. For questions, contact Dale Meyer.

COOKBOOKS

The LWiM group from Good Shepherd collected recipes and put together a cookbook in the early 2000's. We still have some and they are on display on a table in the narthex. You can obtain one for a free-will donation. Envelopes for the donations can be found at the offering stand near the attendance table or at the display table.



PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

- **Barb Poppe**, with short-term memory issues.(1)
- **Marta**, friend of Darla Posner, diagnosed with cancer. (6)
- **Elaine Egner**, having medical issues (6)
- **Kelly**, daughter of Shirley Green, that she would continue to do well.(6)
- **Mildred Humphrey**, recovering from a serious fall. (5)
- **Jim Cather**, for healing from some health issues. (6)
- **Hailey Marshall**, grand-daughter of Maureen Marshall, for healing of a broken heel. She's a dancer. (2)
- **Ashley Johnson**, cousin of Sarah Stepp, hospitalized in ICU at UCLA Medical Center. Diagnosed with a rare blood disorder, possibly Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura. (2)
- **Irma Jensen**, mother of Ruth Bois, hospitalized with pneumonia.(1)
- **Bonnie Gudgel**, sister-in-law of Wayne Gudgel, hospitalized. (1)
- **Shelley Kuhlman**, niece of Lois Kirchhoff, hospitalized. (1)
- **Janet Williamson**, mother of Pastor Mark Williamson, hospitalized for surgery. (1)
- **Jack**, brother-in-law of Loraine Harnett, hospitalized for medical tests. (1)
- **Paris Renter**, birth of a child induced. (1)
- **Susie**, daughter of Gary & Myrna Heckman, for healing.(6)
- **Cecilia Durham**, long-time friend of Nancy & Sarah Stepp, recovering from back surgery (6)
- **Steve Schwarz**, brother-in-law of Carolyn Schwarz, with COPD and other health issues. (6)
- **John Watt**, father of Wendy Stepp, battling cancer.(6)
- **Joyce**, aunt of Amy Steele, recovering from a surprise surgery. (5)
- **Max Roberts**, nephew of Joe & Lucy Roberts, for healing.(5)
- **The father of Steve Wright**, hospitalized with a broken hip. (3)
- **Ron Kimes**, recovering from a knee replacement (3)
- **Aunt of Tish Loomis**, with several medical issues (3)
- **Cambrynn Schwartz**, friend of Mike & Michelle Schnell, battling cystic disease (3)
- **Joyce Thompson**, recovering from a hospital stay. (3)
- **Lane Georgeson**, mother-in-law of Lauren, admitted to the hospital with strokes. (3)
- **Arnold Henning**, hospitalized. but getting better. (2)
- **Shar Frey**, friend of Bob Van Valkenburg, in long-term recovery from cancer surgery. (2)
- **For those in the military, our first-responders, and for our medical personnel**, for protection and safety in their duties.
- **Leena Mackey**, grand-daughter of Linda Clark, currently at Children's Hospital in Omaha recovering from surgery.(2)
- **The family of Kay Kohl**, wife of Jerry Kohl, who was taken to her eternal home this past week. (1)
- **The family of Joan Pfeifer**, aunt of Rich Lichtenfeld, who was taken to her eternal home recently.(1)

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STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: Matthew 3: 14— “John would have prevented him, saying ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’” John is right. What Jesus is doing makes no sense! But this is the upside down, outlandish grace of God. The innocent Jesus takes our sinner’s place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know. The Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES NEXT WEEK (Jan. 10 -Jan. 16):

People celebrating birthdays are:

Ellie Egger	Mark Reinke
Pastor Moline	Steve Eckhoff
Helen Stieneke (93rd birthday)	
Reid Egger	Scott Indgjer
Sally Lacy	Chris Luebbe
Ella Moline	Victor Kirilloff
Jared Sachtjen	Audrey Dlouhy
Bella Steinhauser	Barbara Kumm

Couples celebrating anniversaries are:
Joe & Sharon Burke

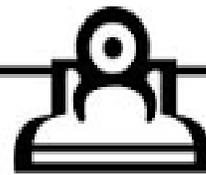
LIFE MOMENT: Baptism of Our Lord: Jesus’ baptism consecrates every human being. God, in giving His Son, identifies with us at our weakest and embraces us at our worst. Even when we don’t resemble anything our Maker intended, He doesn’t call us “unwanted” or “better off dead.” Instead He calls us His children. Christians can also welcome the least among us.

MISSION PROJECTS

Good Shepherd’s mission project for the month of January 2021 is Lutherans for Life. The Bible tells us what God has done in and through Jesus Christ that gives value and dignity to every human life including yours. God’s Word tells you where you came from (You were created by God.) and where you

are going (Through faith in Jesus you can be certain of eternal life in heaven.). Lutherans for Life is dedicated to bringing the pro-life message to people everywhere. Christians have been instrumental in influencing these issues in the past.

There are envelopes at the offering stand for any donations that you wish to make to assist Lutherans for Life in fulfilling their mission in the coming year.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION JANUARY 3, 2021

WEEKLY BUDGET NEED
\$ 11,253.00

ATTENDANCE:
SUNDAY, JAN. 3: 169
WED., DEC. 29: 44

OFFERING: \$ 13,573.00

VICARAGE FUND THUS
FAR:
\$ 10,700.00

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Starting Sunday, July 19, Family Bible Study will be available in-between services. The fellowship hall has been redesigned and approved by pastors and elders, in order to accommodate current social distancing guidelines.

- The entire family is invited! One family unit per table in chairs facing the direction of the pastor at the podium.
- We have 22 tables set up properly, each distanced at a minimum of 6' from other tables in every direction.
- The tables can accommodate up to 5 people each. Come and see the new arrangement in the fellowship hall!
- We have 110 chairs to accommodate the Bible Study, which is 50% of the capacity of the fellowship hall.

Stay tuned for forthcoming information on our other weekly Bible studies. We give thanks to God and look forward to sharing more of God's Word with you!

REGARDING THE MAYOR'S MASK MANDATE

Our pastors and elders met on the evening of July 21 to discuss the July 20, 2020 update to the Directed Health Measure from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

The pastors and elders unanimously agreed that our current practices and procedures fall within the Mayor's mandate without requiring masks.

- *From our pastors: The Mayor of Lincoln has issued a mask mandate for all public gatherings in Lancaster County July 20—August 31. There is much debate on whether this qualifies as a 4th Commandment issue. It is not our vocation to debate or enforce such mandates, but rather to preach and teach God's Word in its truth and purity and administer His precious sacraments according to His command and promise. You are free in the Gospel to follow the mandate if you wish. Our policy at Good Shepherd remains the same: masks are encouraged but not required. Let your conscience be your guide. Please continue to follow the 6-foot social distancing guideline so that we may continue to ease back to normal as the DHMs allow.*
- *Our return to a Sunday Bible Study for families on July 19 was a success! Plans are being made to ensure the continued safety of us all.*
- *Sunday Bible Study for families will continue until further notice. Many of our Sunday School teachers are in at-risk categories, and we do not want to burden their consciences.*

**DOORKEEPERS TODAY: (Jan. 10) 8 am: Joel Kaldahl
10:30 am: David Perrin**

ELDER TODAY: (Dec. 27) Dale Meyer

**USHERS TODAY: 8 am: Alan Brodbeck, Tim Higgins
10:30 am: Steve Eckhoff, Matt Durr**

**ACOLYTES TODAY: 8 am: Vivian Cheek
10:30 am: Adilynn Damme**

**COMMUNION SET-UP: Sondra Rathjen
COMMUNION CLEAN-UP: Suzie Znamenacek**

SUPPORT FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

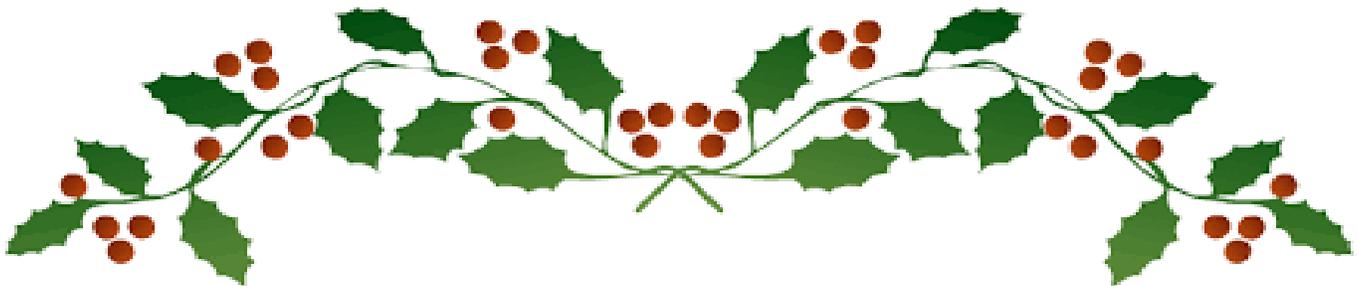
February 2, 2021 will mark the 7th year Good Shepherd congregation has supported the Pancakes for PCAN fundraiser event. Because of COVID and the need to protect the children whose health is compromised from cancer, we will support PCAN through February's mission project instead of hosting a pancake event in 2021. Funds raised from prior Pancakes for PCAN events have allowed PCAN to provide financial support for rent, utilities, groceries, medical bills and travel-related expenses as well as for funeral expenses for families that lost their child to cancer.

The mission of PCAN is to financially assist Lincoln and surrounding area families who have children diagnosed with pediatric cancer and to advocate for a cure through awareness, action, education and research. All funds raised are used specifically for Nebraska families.

Until 2020, PCAN has been able to increase the amount of support and the number of families supported each year; but, during the COVID pandemic were unable to adequately fundraise. More families need assistance now than in past years. PCAN appreciates the support received from Good Shepherd members in past years and will appreciate any support received this year.

VOTERS' MEETING

The twice-a-year voters' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26th at 7 pm. Items on the agenda include a discussion involving the vicarage program and application process.



GREETINGS FROM SHIRLEY GREEN:

Greetings at this glorious season of Christmas! Just wanted to thank you all for the prayers for my daughter Kelly. I have been here in Wyoming with them for almost 3 months and so far all seems to be well. Still no diagnosis but she has not had any more episodes of TIA's (mini-strokes). I am settling in for the winter, getting used to sharing a bathroom and learning how to cook for 3 people!

Jesus loves you and you all keep remembering that our Father is in control and His will be done. Indeed, come Lord Jesus! Merry Christmas!