

March 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 9:30 am

Fourth Sunday in Lent

# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 E. Mason, Lena, Il 61048

Phone: (815) 369-5552

Email: [gslchurch@aeroinc.net](mailto:gslchurch@aeroinc.net)

Website: [www.GoodShepherdLena.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLena.org)

Facebook: "GSLCLenaIL"



Art by  
Anna Patterson

*Welcome to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
If you are visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome  
and to know that we are delighted to have you here*

**WELCOME!** We want you to be at ease - we won't ask you to stand up and be recognized, but we'd love it if you would introduce yourself. Welcome to Good Shepherd!

**We would like everyone to fill out the Friendship Pad at the end of the pews and** pass it along for all to fill out. Please also mark the names of all in the family who are receiving Communion.

If you are visiting, please include your address and phone number.

**Nursery** Children are always welcome at our worship services; however, if you desire, please feel free to use the nursery located out the north entrance of the sanctuary.

<u>Interim Pastor:</u>	Pastor Art Stees	<u>Custodian:</u>	Taylor Bastian
<u>Secretary:</u>	Darlene Barr	<u>Pianists:</u>	Tena Rackow, Sarah Baker
<u>Organist:</u>	Karen Niemeier	<u>Missionaries to Tanzania:</u>	Randy&Carol Stubbs Family
<u>Choir Dir. /accomp:</u>	Janis Kurth / Marion Fahr	<u>Lector</u>	Sheila Keene
<u>Acolyte:</u>	Kayla Runkle	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	Taylor Bastian
<u>Worship Assistant:</u>	Vivian Hesselbacher	<u>Communion Usher</u>	Bill and Jean Engel
<u>Welcome Visitor:</u>	Bob Schlachter	<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Bob and Sharon Schlachter
<u>Communion Asst:</u>	Jay Andrews, Austin Andrews		
<u>Elevator Operator</u>	Donna Gullickson	<u>Sound System:</u>	Wayne Kurth, Braden Diddens
<u>Greeters:</u>	Jeremy and Cara Schriener, Paul and Shirley Fox		
<u>Ushers:</u>	Bill and Jean Engel, Jerry and Beth Martin		

~ 2 ~  
– **ORDER OF WORSHIP** –  
**ELW SETTING 10**

**PRELUDE**

*(A time for prayer and reflection)*

**Karen Niemeier**

**Announcements & Community Concerns**

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *(Please stand)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who brings us safely through the sea,  
who gives us water from the rock,  
who leads us into the land of milk and honey.

**Amen.**

Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful Father,  
**we have sinned against heaven and before you.**  
**We do not fully live as your sons and daughters.**  
**We use your gifts to our own ends.**  
**Forgive us and restore us,**  
**that we may resist all that draws us away from you,**  
**and be at peace with one another. Amen.**

We are reconciled to God through Christ;  
for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us.  
Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God.  
Once lost, we now are found.  
God clothes you in the finest robe of all,  
the righteousness of † Jesus Christ,  
forgiving you all your sins  
and making of you a new creation.  
**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW#807

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith - er by thy help I've come";  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

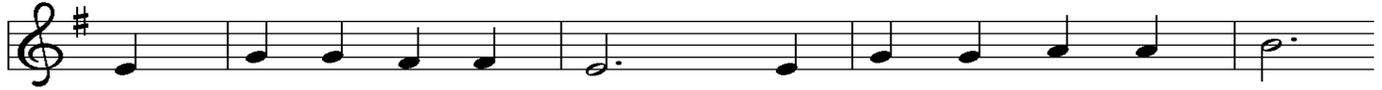
While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

GREETING:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.

**KYRIE (Sung by all)**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**A:** Let us pray **C:** God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated*

L: The 1<sup>st</sup> READING is from Joshua 5:9-12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. <sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

<sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year. L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 32 (*Please join the Assisting Minister in reading the psalm responsively*) ELW#32

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup>**Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

L: The 2<sup>nd</sup> READING is from 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. L: The word of the Lord! C: **Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Acclamation** *Stand*



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P: THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 C: **Glory to you, O Lord!**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.*

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable:

<sup>11b</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ‘ <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’” P: The gospel of the Lord! **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be seated*

**CHILDREN ‘S MESSAGE! Meet Mr. Furr**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Art Stees**

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I wil  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sin

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

**APOSTLES' CREED** *Please Stand*

**A:** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition: WA: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

WA: Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope. *brief silence.*

WA: For campus ministries, we give you thanks, eternal Lord. Equip the students, staff, and ministers to share your steadfast love with their university community and all whom they meet.

Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: For polluted oceans and rivers, we seek your healing, creative Lord. Restore the homes of manatees and sea turtles. Teach us to love the earth as you do. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: For conflicts between political parties, we ask for your discernment and wisdom, merciful Lord. Enable citizens and elected officials to listen to one another and to work together for your justice.

Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: For the unemployed, the working poor, and all who struggle to make ends meet, we pray for your provision, gracious Lord. Break down systems that shame, and hold all in the truth that they are your children. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: For all who engage in the disciplines of Lent, we seek your strength and grace, loving Lord. Even as we rest in your mercy, create a new heart within us. Be with all who suffer especially *Verl Price, Bob Lyvers, Mark Fulfs, Donna Euler, Katy Lartz, Kim, Danny Miller, Kelli Huneke, Ardie and Mike.* Strengthen and encourage *Gladys Staderman, Dorothy Weimer.* Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: For all the saints, sinners of your own redeeming, we praise your name, faithful Lord. Grant that we continue to grow as your people by their teaching and example. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*Congregation may greet one another using these or similar words: Peace be with you.*

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

**Karen Niemeier**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church locally and throughout the world, including those in need. We also offer up prayers to God as we offer ourselves (time, talents, gifts, and interests) to the Lord's service and dedicate our lives to God's work in the world. During this time, the table is set. After the table is set, the offering is gathered & the anthem concludes, the acolyte walks out to the edge of the chancel steps to receive the offering from the ushers.*

**OFFERING PRAYER** (*congregation stands*)

A: Let Us Pray. **C: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**DIALOGUE**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

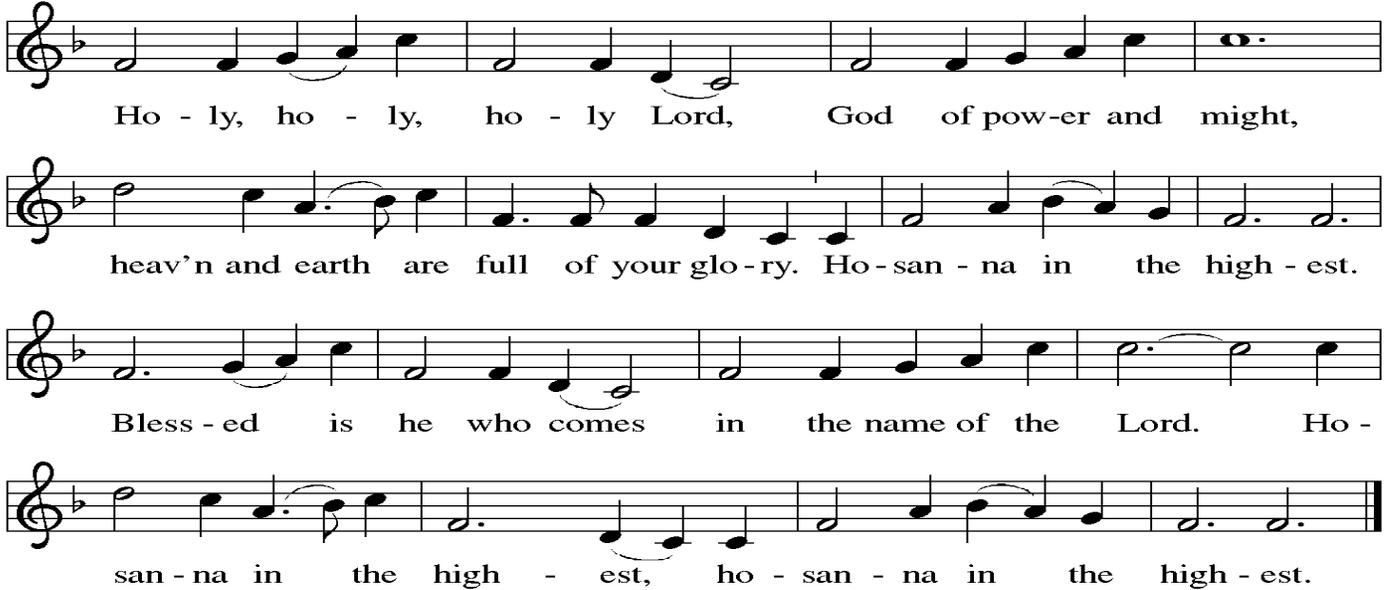
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise

**PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right ..... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed... Do this for the remembrance of me.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*We practice open Communion here — you don't have to be a member to participate. All who share our belief that Jesus is present in his holy meal are welcome to receive the bread and cup. Children and adults who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a special blessing. Holy Communion will be celebrated today using intinction (you will dip the wafer into the chalice of wine). The gold chalices have wine; the chrome chalices have grape juice. You will be ushered down the center aisle and return to your pew by way of the side aisles. If you wish to commune and are unable to come forward or need other assistance, please let an usher know so that we can serve you.*



COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION SONG

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW#779



1 A - maz - ing grace! — how sweet the sound — that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.



**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray, O God, we thank you for gathering and feeding us as a mother hen embraces her young. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION P:** Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**C: Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

**ELW#773**

V1 Precious Lord, take my hand,  
lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

V3 When the darkness appears  
and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone,  
at the river I stand,  
guide my feet, hold my hand.  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

V2 When my way grows drear,  
precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call,  
hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

**DISMISSAL (*from back*)**

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

**C: Thanks be to God**

**POSTLUDE**

**Karen Niemeier**

**THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD**

**March 6<sup>th</sup> thru March 13<sup>th</sup> 2016**

<b>Today</b>	<b>Worship Service with Holy Communion</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
	Fellowship	10:30 am
	Sunday School	10:45 am
	Choir Practice	11:00 am
	Chime Choir Practice	5:00 pm
Monday	Learning Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
Tuesday	Hymn Sing at Lena Living Center	9:45 am
	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
Wednesday	"Piece Corps" Quilting Group	8:00 am-11:30 am
	Community Mid-Week Lenten Service	12:00 pm
	With soup lunch at St. Joseph's	
	After School Program at The Hangout	3:30-5:00 pm
	Lenten Dinner	5:30 pm
	Lenten Worship Service	6:30 pm
Thursday	Friendship club Potluck/Entertainment "Take Two"	12:00 pm
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Worship Service with Holy Communion</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
	Fellowship	10:30 am
	Sunday School	10:45 am
	Choir Practice	11:00 am
	Chime Choir Practice	5:00 pm

Attendance February 29 was 59

Total Offering February 28, 2016: \$1,931.00 - Amount needed to meet budget: \$2,767.20

**Prayer Requests**

We pray for all of those who are lonely, injured, sick, needing healing, or in need in any way. This week we especially pray for, especially *Verl Price, Bob Lyvers, Mark Fulfs, Donna Euler, Katy Lartz, Kim, Danny Miller, Kelli Huneke, Ardie and Mike* and homebound members *Gladys Staderman, Dorothy Weimer.*

**Community Mid-Week Service at Noon**

St. Joseph Church will be hosting Wednesday mid-week services at noon March 9<sup>th</sup>. The services begin with a soup luncheon, followed by a message

**Wednesdays During Lent**

**GOD'S LOVE BREAKS THROUGH**

That's the title of the series that will be the theme of our mid-week Lenten service Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup>. The evening will begin with a light supper at 5:30 pm followed by worship at 6:30 pm. Pastor Stees and Denny Luke will be worship leaders while members of the confirmation class will assist in various capacities. We think "God's Love Breaks Through" will be an interesting series for our Lenten devotions.

**It is time to order Easter Lilies**

Lilies will be \$10.00 per plant and can be ordered by using the envelopes provided in the pews. Please place them in the offering plate or you can drop them off at the church office. Orders must be in by March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Lilies may be picked up after 9:30 am Easter Sunday Service.

**Easter Breakfast Sunday, March 27, 2016 at 8 am**

The Good Shepherd youth will be serving Easter Breakfast on Easter Morning at 8am in the Fellowship Hall to raise funds for the youth. Make your reservation by Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> by placing your reservation slip in offering plate or turning it in to the Church office.

**All Youth and Children of Good Shepherd: We will be meeting on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm** to prepare for the Easter Breakfast.

**Also, Easter Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> we will meet at 7:30 am** to serve the Easter Breakfast together.