



Easter Hope

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.

-Luke 24: 1-5, NRSV

Grace to you and peace in the name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As I write this, we are in the last week of the season of Lent, and we are preparing to come out of the wilderness into the bright light of the resurrection.

This quote, above, from the gospel of Luke, seems to capture the feeling of life pushing up through death. When the women come to the tomb, they are in a place of desolation; the desolation of grief and fear, they are numb, empty, in a wilderness where they can see nothing but death. And yet, when they arrive, they are greeted by angels bearing a message of life! It is a message that breaks through their grief and numbness, a message that jogs their memory of what Jesus had told them: death did not have the last word!

This Easter, we find ourselves in the midst of war abroad and uncertainty and instability at home. Many people are afraid for themselves, their families and their communities. We find ourselves, as a society, in a wilderness of fear, anger and division. Many of us feel, in our bones, the kind of fear and grief that caused the disciples to hide in a locked room and weighed heavy on the shoulders of the women who went to the tomb. Yet, hope and life are here.

I recently came across a video, an Easter message from Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad, who is the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, in which he said this:

*We are surrounded by death. The old city of Jerusalem is silent, the Holy Sepulcher is closed. The Via Dolorosa is empty, and yet we walk it every day of our life journey. Despite all of this, Easter is coming, and we will rejoice in the day the Lord has made. Easter is a celebration of life that overcomes death. A celebration of peace that conquers war. A celebration of hope that overcomes despair. A celebration of love that challenges hatred. The story does not end on the cross but begins in the empty tomb...
Let our Easter song rise louder than the silence of war.*

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PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

These words, spoken by someone living in the shadow of death, are a powerful witness to what Easter means. Each of us comes to the tomb bearing our own griefs and sorrows. My prayer, is that the we leave changed. May the empty tomb be the beginning of new life for us. May we live confident in the promise that we are not alone, and that despair and death do not have the last word. This Easter, may we experience the life that conquers death, and may we, like Mary, bear that message out into the world. Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jess

LENTEN EVENTS



Maundy Thursday Service

Service begins at 7:00pm
Thursday, April 2, 2026.



Good Friday Service

Service begins at 7:00pm
Friday, April 3, 2026.



Easter Sunday Service

Service begins at 10:00am
Sunday, April 5, 2026.

FROM THRIVENT



“Congratulations! In 2025, [Good Shepherd] received \$117.00 through the Thrivent Choice program.

Your work strengthens communities, and we're grateful for the impact you make every day.”

Rec'd March 13, 2026

FROM COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE



“Good Shepherd,

Thank you for your continued support. Your donations help us ensure access to affordable food for our guests. We deeply appreciate your support for our mission.

The Action House Team”

rec'd March, 16, 2026

Branden,

“Thank you so much for volunteering with Community Action House Resale Store this past Saturday. Please feel free to share this note of gratitude with your team.

We are incredibly grateful for your time & dedication in support of our work to nourish, equip & empower our neighbors! The generosity of volunteers like you all helps us build a stronger, healthier community. Your team's contributions at our Resale Store help us distribute over \$28,000 worth of clothing items & other resources to guests we meet through our Refresh program each year.

We would've to stay connected with your team!... We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Gratefully,
Nicole A.”

Rec'd March 13, 2026

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Is...

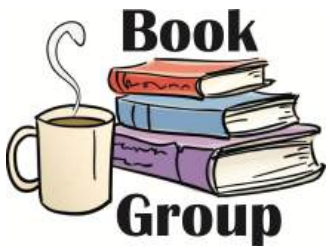


Love in Action

Stewardship Meeting

We will be having a Stewardship Meeting
at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Wednesday, April 8, 2026,
7:40 pm - 8:30 pm.
Anyone and Everyone are welcome to come!

BOOK GROUP NEWS



Join us in April for

The Ungrateful Refugee by Dina Nayeri

A change from our normal reads, this book is nonfiction.

Dina Nayeri, at age 8, fled from Iran with her mother and brother because her mother had converted from Islam to Christianity and was active in an underground Christian church. She tells of their 2 years fleeing, living in refugee camps, seeking asylum and beginning a life in the United States. She interviewed other refugees to tell their stories along with those of her family. The Library Journal review says "It humanizes the so-called 'refugee crisis' and puts into perspective why people seek asylum and what they face as a result."

The book, ebook and audio book are available at Herrick Library. For those who like audiobooks Nayeri provides the narration so you hear her story in her voice.

The Book Group meets next for discussion on
Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 4:00pm.

THANK YOU!



LOVE OUR
SCHOOLS
2026

Thank You!

To everyone who wrote words of encouragement for our local school teachers and staff. Our notes were dropped off at Quincy Elementary School.

WEEKEND BIBLE STUDY

Calling All Members



The Weekend Bible Study—where faith gets real, questions are welcome, coffee is strong, and no one will make you read out loud unless you *really* want to.

Whether you're a lifelong Bible scholar or still trying to find Habakkuk, you're invited.

Saturdays at 10:00am at church. Bring a bible if you wish, but we'll have some on hand too.

Saturdays, 10:00 am at Church



NOISY OFFERING



March/April Noisy Offering Recipient
BestPals Animal Rescue Center



Our Noisy Offering for March/April is BestPals Animal Rescue Center. BestPals is a non-profit shelter in Holland that takes in owner surrendered cats and dogs. Their mission is to provide a guaranteed adoption for owner-surrendered companion animals and to partner with other organizations to provide a No Kill community. They also take in transfers from local overcrowded shelters when they can.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Programing

After the Children's Message during the worship service, children will be directed to meet their teachers in the Commons for Sunday School.

Each class will include a lesson, singing songs, and doing a craft.

Come join us this Sunday!



PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 281

Families: 13

Average Sunday Attendance: 56

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Sunday Servants Needed for April

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant
Use the form in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.

616.772.4075 or gslc.office@icloud.com

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader(s)	Usher	Communion Set-Up/ Clean-Up
April 5 Easter Sunday	WL- CA- Carolyn Willaman	Carolyn Willaman		Deb Ludwig
April 12 2nd Sunday of Easter	WL - CA- Sally Ponstein	Sally Ponstein		
April 19 3rd Sunday of Easter	WL - CA -	Tom Ludwig		Deb Ludwig
April 26 4th Sunday of Easter	WL - CA -			Deb Ludwig

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP — APRIL

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
April 5, 2026	
April 12, 2026	
April 19, 2026	
April 26, 2026	

APRIL

Birthdays

Nevaeh McCaughan 2
Melinda Mueller 4
Tom Ludwig 5
Ellie Buggeln 9
Jackson Kleinjans 11
Sharon Wendt 11
Bill House 16
Eve Andrus 17
Duane Schuldt 18
Joan Lamb 30
Shaina Underhill 30



Anniversaries

Brian & Jessica
Underhill 28

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services are also on-line.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525508195?pwd=MmtjVENGaUg3ODFuaXhhUHR1TVR3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 875 2550 8195

Passcode: 022399

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via Zoom.
Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm, September - May.
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 11:00 am on site. No Quilting in December.
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 am, September - May.
Weekend Bible Study, Saturdays, 10:00 am, September - May.
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:00 pm. September - May.

PASTOR JESS' SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Thursday
via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com

To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze
calendar on our website at goodshepherdhollandmi.com

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Branden Bacon (Sec)	(920) 889-8707, branden.bacon@gmail.com
Dylana Eisaman (Pres)	(616) 953-0603, dylana.pinter@gmail.com
Bill Foster	(989) 329-6482 fosterbk@charter.net
Michael Russell (Trea)	(616) 283-6723 miker163@yahoo.com
Naomi Wahl (VP)	(605) 376-7173 whldw220@aol.com
Pastor Jess	(616) 403-4660, pj.gslc@gmail.com

IN OUR MARCH PRAYERS

In Our March Prayers...

- ***Our Sympathies:*** To the family and friends of long time member Patricia Bradfield who passed peacefully in her sleep surrounded by family on February 27, 2026. Please keep them in prayer. To the family and friends of Brian Underhill's uncle, Doug Jurn, who passed away the 2nd week of March. Prayers especially for Brian's cousin, Kelly Wood.
- ***Ministries of the Month, March :*** BestPals and the Mission and Outreach team.
- ***Healing/Peace:*** Randy Bacon (Branden's father) healing from open heart surgery, Barton Family (friends of Julie Bolton, Corinne Becker, breast cancer, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Jake Bird, cancer treatment (Corinne's son-in-law), Bryan Blank, former member, needs a kidney transplant, Greg Bolton, (brother-in-law of Julie Bolton), Mary & Wayne Cagle (friends of Sally Ponstein) Wayne diagnosed with lung cancer, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) cancer diagnosis, Brian Dixon, the Dixon family, Shawn Felgenhauer (Kerry Johnson's sister) prayers for continued healing, Jayce Genzinger (Tammy Walter's step-niece's son) born preemie in July, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Gigi Howard, gastrointestinal issues and swelling, Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Jan (Cathy Sytsma's sister), Holly Johnson, (Steve & Kerry's daughter), Connie Lentz (friend of Kathy Shoup), Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, John & Judy Madison, (Lois' neighbors) both undergoing cancer treatment, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Ron Meyer, Pat Ponstein (Sally's sister-in-law) having treatments at home but not progressing well, Dorothy Postema (Deb P-Gs mom) severe bacterial infection, Lois Robinson, gall stones, Greg Russell, (Mike's brother), back surgery and heart attack, Janice Russell (Mike's sister-in-law) continuing to improve, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) recovery from transplant surgery, Stella, 7 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friend's granddaughter) prayers for non-rejection of transplant, surgery recovery, Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Chuck Thor, Brian Underhill, Steve Unruh (Corinne's bro.) colon cancer treatments, Joe Vanderlaan (nephew to Sally P. & Ellen L.) severely injured in a car accident, Julia Wentz, chemotherapy treatments.
- ***Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:*** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Dick Straith, Susan Straith, Bonita Zielke.
- ***Serving Our Country:*** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Ryan Felgenhauer, William Felgenhauer, and Evan Felgenhauer (great-nephews of Kerry Johnson), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Mitchell Johnson (Parrott's nephew), Koa Rosally (Grossman's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- ***Prayer Partners:*** Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rev. Nicole Smith, Plainwell; Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Rev. Martha Porter-Reid, Portage; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Rev. Rachel Laughlin, Portage; Leer Lutheran Church, Supply Pastors, Posen; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rev. Marcy Miller, Reed City.