

The Shepherd's Staff

January 2008

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Issue 94

P. O. Box 355

**GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

(507) 534-3675

www.goodshepherd-elca.org

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 1pm - 4pm

Pastor's home phone: 534-0122

Pastor's e-mail:

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us...
John 1:14a**

In these last days of Christmas and into the season of Epiphany we celebrate the power and grace of God being made known to us. God does not want to be distant from his people so the Word became flesh in Jesus Christ. In our lives each of us has stories to tell of how God and the love of Christ Jesus have been made known to us.

These epiphanies should not end with us. God's power and blessing worked through ordinary people like Mary and Joseph, and still works through you today to make Christ known and to pass on the gift of faith.

As stated by our ELCA presiding bishop, the Rev. Mark Hanson, "Countless generations later, you and I are called to proclaim the Good News of Emmanuel, 'God with us.' Our neighborhoods, our communities, and our world are filled with those who long to know Jesus' love and saving presence in their lives. God uses us all in our ordinariness and sinfulness to bring forth the promise and light of Christ's love and salvation."

READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

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Multiple Touch Ministry

Our mission is to reach out to congregation and community members in times of joy and celebration, pain, sorrow or whenever the need may arise. If you know someone needing a cheerful card, phone call, or food please contact Kathy Sveen

7TH & 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Confirmation resumes on Wednesday January 2nd, with a “Crossroads” evening. **Parents and students should meet together in the fellowship hall** for the usual 6 -7:30 p.m. timeframe. As we kick-off the second half of the year, this will be an important time to come together.

January meal schedule: Host family

January 02 – Family night - Potluck

January 09 – Getschmann

January 16 – Kromminga

January 23 – Morath

January 30 -- Tradup

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 6th, 2008.

Thank you to the Christmas Program directors, students, teachers and everyone involved in carrying out a great Christmas program. It is indeed the best story ever told, the story of our Savior’s birth

JANUARY ADULT FORUMS

January 6th – “Help me to understand Islam”

The Rev. Dr. Richard Rehfeldt will join us in the sanctuary from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. on January 6th. There are a lot of questions and confusion about the religion of Islam. Join us on the 6th as we take a step in better understanding Islam.

January 20th – Budget preview and Shared Ministries Coordinator Forum

January 27th – Congregational Celebration of Ministry and Business Meeting

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Afternoon Bible Study : The January meeting of the afternoon bible study group will be at 3:30 p.m., January 3rd at the church. Please feel free to come and join in.

Evening Bible Study: The books are in for the “Bad Girls of the Bible” bible study. If you are signed up to take part in this bible study, you can make your checks out to **Good Shepherd Church** and write “Bad Girls of the Bible” on the memo line and place them in the offering plate, or give them to Franny Schwantz. Remember that the bible study starts on Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and will meet at the church. Duration of the study is 10 weeks and will be led by Franny. If interested in attending this bible study, you can still sign up by contacting Franny (876-2253).

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Annual Congregational Celebration and business meeting will be on Sunday, January 27th from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Please plan to attend, as this is your opportunity to participate in fulfilling the vision. Two items which will be voted on will be: 1.the election of new council members & 2.the budget for 2008.

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Together In faith sessions postponed!

Kindergarten students and their parents will share in two weeks of "The Lord's Prayer." Due to the construction taking place in the office, **these sessions will be moved to a later date: January 20th and February 3rd**. Hopefully the extra time will allow the construction to be completed, and for these sessions to be held in the nursery. These sessions were originally scheduled for January 6th and 13th.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH NEWS

Senior High Youth Group (9-12th grade)

The January 2nd event will be watching a bowl game at Pastor Woestehoff's. Woestehoff's home is at 315 4th Avenue NE in Plainview.

January 9th we will resume meeting in the Good Shepherd Youth Room from 7:30 -8:30 p.m. The schedule for January 9th through the 30th follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| January 9 th | Discussion Night – What about relationships and sex? |
| January 16 th | Skiing night or recreation night at Good Shepherd |
| January 23 rd | Discussion Night – What about relationships & sex? (Part 2) |
| January 30 th | Summer Canoe Trip Conversations |

Summer 2008 Impact Trip: Plans are underway to take part in a week long canoe trip through the guidance of Wilderness Canoe Base, an ELCA affiliated ministry. In the setting of the boundary waters, our senior high students will experience growth in faith and friendships as they canoe, portage, worship and camp together. We will be departing on Friday July 11th and returning on Thursday, July 17th. Please contact Deb Weinrich at 534-4256 to reserve a spot for this experience. **Please do not wait to sign-up!**

THE SHARING TREE

A huge "THANKS" to all who participated with this year's Sharing Tree. Thanks to Betty and Gloria for helping decorate the tree; thanks to all who shopped for gift and grocery items and to those who made cash donations (we were able to purchase gift cards for all 9 families). Also, thanks to everyone who helped bag up all those gifts and deliver them to the Community Center. THANKS to all of you for your help in making this a HUGE success!

STEWARDSHIP BOOKS

The majority of the stewardship books have been returned and our accountant, Ron Peterson, is completing the tallying of the pledges. Thank you for participating in this drive; it is essential for planning Good Shepherd's financial life for 2008. The complete report will be available at the annual meeting on January 27th.

MILESTONE MOMENTS

Funerals...

Blessings to the family and friends of Chase Hutchison. Chase died on December 9th, 2007.

Weddings...

Blessings to Andy Hassig and Shasta Schlieff who were married at Good Shepherd on December 8th, 2007.

Blessings to Kory Bigalk and Koreen Kurth who were married at Good Shepherd on December 31st, 2007.

Baptisms...

Blessings to Lyllia Anne Benike who was baptized on December 30th, 2007. Lyllia is the daughter of Josh and Michelle Benike.

PLAINVIEW CLERGY ASSOCIATION PULPIT EXCHANGE

Sunday, January 20th will see area churches exchange pastors to preach in a different Christian Congregation. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will host Pastor Steve Buss from the Hilltop Christian Fellowship. Pastor Kevin Woestehoff will be preaching at Community Presbyterian Church in Plainview.

GOOD SHEPHERD SOUND SYSTEM FUND DRIVE

The Technology Committee has selected Sims Sound & Video Inc. of Winona to replace and improve our Sound System at Good Shepherd. Our current system is failing. It has numerous dead spots throughout the sanctuary and often will cut out all together. The Council has approved \$5,000 from the General Fund. Additionally we need:

Replacing the Basic System will:

\$5,500 Additional Funds Needed

1. Improve speakers in the Sanctuary
2. Will have 11 inputs for microphones
3. Pastor will have a Headset Mic
4. Switched sound in the Narthex area
5. CD Player for recorded music
6. Improve the Video Ministry sound control

Music Ministry Upgrade:

\$3,985 Additional Funds Needed

1. Additional Mixer – Increased Mic Inputs
2. Portable Unit to take to the Fellowship Hall or even outside
3. Speakers for Vocalist
4. Personal Hearing Devices for Hearing Impaired

Total Fund Raising Goal for the New Sound System:

\$9,485 By December 31st

Our goal is to provide a meaningful Worship Experience for those attending the worship service and for our television ministry listeners. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution by December 31st, payable to Good Shepherd and labeled clearly as 'Sound System' by mailing to the church, placing in the offering plate or give directly to one of the following committee members:

Tom Anderson – Chr, Bob Endres, Don Fiskum, Gary Melbostad, Todd Wangen

SHARED MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

The Personnel Committee is recommending to the council a hire for the Shared Ministries Coordinator position. Interviews were held in December and we were very fortunate to have good candidates. We anticipate this position to be staffed by February 1st.

FACILITY

In early December, our office area suffered water damage as a result of a layer of freezing rain being melted due to heat escape caused by a design issue. The offices are temporarily in the nursery until the office area is ready to be used again. The insurance adjustor found that our external roof is in great shape, and has recommended that our insurance company cover the cost of all interior damage. Modifications are being done in the reconstruction to minimize heat escape and the possibility of future problems

The water damage in the offices sped up the plan to reconfigure this space. The outer office will be given a more efficient layout to provide a work station for the Congregational Administrator and the Shared Ministries Coordinator. We will also use this time to update phone lines/systems as well as electrical outlets to eliminate limitations and problems caused by our current setup. New flooring and paint will also add a fresh, clean look.

At this point the old sheet rock ceiling has been removed, the roof dried, and new insulation and new phone lines have been installed. The remainder of the project should be completed by late January.

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Four council positions will be up for election at the January 27th annual meeting. We want to be intentional in being led by people who are active in living out their discipleship and possess the gifts of leadership that focus on the “big picture” of carrying out the vision. If you have someone in mind who you feel is actively living out their discipleship and have the leadership gifts for council please pass on your suggestion to the nominating committee. Nominating committee members include Mike Sveen, Ron Peterson, Lily Bartz, Betty Fahrenz, Deb Weinrich, and Pastor Kevin Woestehoff.

Thank you for your partnership in carrying out our ministry,

Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

PRAYER TEAM

God asks us to make him the center of our lives. Prayer is our communication with him. Often I hear people talk about praying for the **big** things in their lives; but God really wants to be a part of our every day lives. By talking to him –**praying**, we can include him in all that we do. We have several people who keep a book with prayer requests and someone prays for the submitted requests daily. This is confidential, unless the prayer is requested for the congregation also. On the stand near the office door is a box with paper to write your request on, place it in the box & it will be added to the prayer book. Topics range from individual issues to world issues. Please consider asking us to pray for you or someone you know.

Prayer team members: Pat Haack, Marlene Johnson, Barb Peck, Franny Schwantz, Kathy Sveen, Elaine Tesmer

E-mail received Nov. 29, 2007

Dear Lonnie,

How are you doing? Tell everyone that I said hello. We had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. The part I liked the most was being home for a week. All my girls were here for the holiday. I cooked plenty. We ate leftovers for a couple of days. Sunday was the first day I cooked after the holiday was over. I received the box that was sent. Thank you very much. I really have to go now. I have to pick Quint up from daycare.

Love, Lisa

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

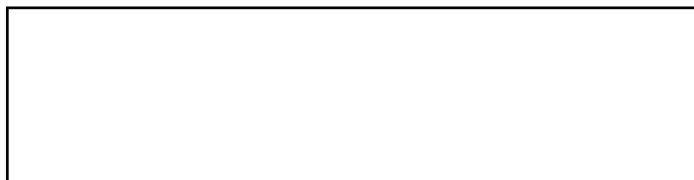
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The Shepherd's Staff is a communication tool among our friends and members spreading the word of Jesus Christ with

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

VISION STATEMENT

**Claimed by God through Word & Sacrament, we move
forward with a NEW VIEW:**

Notice the needs of our congregation, community, and world with eyes of faith.

**THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE
FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER IS**