

The Shepherd's Staff

October 2008

Issue 103

Contact Information

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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 Doris Johnson (534-3106) or Marlene Johnson (534-2273) during the month of October.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of Good Shepherd,

We are inviting you to come to three cottage meetings that we feel are vital in discerning our future. They will be held from **7-8 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Mondays: October 6, October 27, and November 17th.**

Nearly three years ago we gathered for cottage meetings that helped to discern a shared-vision and strategic plan that we thought would lead us for four years. Good News! We celebrate that we are fulfilling our vision and strategic plan at a much faster pace than expected. We are now in a position where we need to go deeper and gather together again to discern again how God is calling us forward in ministry.

Our church staff and council leaders have excitement and anticipation for these cottage meetings. This is an exciting time as we continue to build on the strengths we celebrated at Ebenezer Sunday.

This will be a prayerful discernment process. Our time together will be facilitated by Pastor Kathie Nycklemoe, an ELCA pastor and spiritual director who serves at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Rochester.

Pastor Nycklemoe has guided other congregations through similar conversations. She wanted to convey this message to you as you may have questions about these cottage meetings:

"How do we know God's will for us? Where do we experience God's presence? How can we listen when we are together and when we are alone? These are some of the questions that will be explored together at our Good Shepherd Cottage meetings. In a fast paced world, we will enter into discernment practices that will help us listen for God's presence in our lives and in our congregation. These practices have graced many who have sought to discern God's will for hundreds of years. Come and see!"

Coming together and discerning together is vital in building ownership and commitment to our shared ministry. The body of Christ needs everyone to be complete. **Our goal is to have one person from each household participating in all three cottage meetings. If you are unable to participate in all three, then please attend as many as you can.**

We look forward to being with you at these cottage meetings. We look forward to seeking God's guidance together!

Blessings,
The Church Council: Barb Peck, Mark Jurgenson, Todd Wangen, Tom Anderson, Gary Melbostad, Jake Thompson, Cheryl Schneider, June Barnick, Mike Boraas, and Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

PASSING ON THE FAITH FACILITATOR



Hi. I'm Carole Joyce, the new Passing on the Faith facilitator here at Good Shepherd. I am excited to be working with you to grow the ministry with children, youth, adults, and families. I thought you might like to know a little more about me and I certainly want to get to know you. When you have an opportunity, introduce yourself to me. I'm getting to know a few names and faces, but I still have a long way to go.

I grew up in LeMars, IA, went to college at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD and recently completed my Master's in Children, Youth, and Family ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

I've lived in the Rochester area for 25 years and have been blessed to combine my two passions—telling about God's amazing love and working with people of all ages (especially children and youth)—as education and faith formation director. I am thankful for my loving family—my husband Dave and sons Eric age 13, Peter age 16, and Brian age 19 who teach me so much every day.

My call here at Good Shepherd is in collaboration with Mount Olive in Rochester. It will be exciting to see how these congregations can work together with the shared mission of proclaiming Jesus Christ. Since the congregations are sharing me, you may not see me at Good Shepherd every single Sunday or every Wednesday night, but know that I am at worship one place or another each week. You can reach me anytime by telephone 507-269-9374 or email carole35@charter.net.

I have noticed the strong presence and involvement of children and youth in worship here at Good Shepherd. While that may not be news to you, it is something to really celebrate as a congregation. One of the most important ways to "pass on the faith" is by worshiping together. Another way to "pass on the faith" is to learn and grow together. It looks like many children and youth are participating in Sunday school and Confirmation classes. I challenge adults to find an opportunity to grow in faith as well.

Thank you for your warm welcome to Good Shepherd for your patience as I learn your names. I look forward to growing in faith with all of you through the coming year as we worship and study God's Word together.

Carole Joyce

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

7TH & 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Confirmation ministry meets every Wednesday night from 6-7:30 p.m. Each night begins with a meal in the fellowship hall, and continues with activities and discussions in the sanctuary that are designed to nurture faith.

October Meal Schedule

October 1
October 8
October 15
October 22
October 29

Host Family

Lee Olson
Folkert Family
No confirmation (MEA)
Wallraff Family
Linda Olson

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Find Your Fit

A five week long series called “Find Your Fit” will be presented for our senior high youth. The program will help our youth discover how God has gifted them in five areas – talents, spiritual gifts, personality, values and passions. In discovering their gifts, youth can learn what they do best and can impact how they live daily for God.

The “Find Your Fit” program can also be helpful in assisting teens make important choices in their own career plans. We will learn how to use gifts for God’s purposes as well as in making career choices. Parents, you can use “Find Your Fit” to help your teen explore schooling options or the world of work and we hope that this program will bring about meaningful and productive conversation between you and your teenager.

The five week session is open to all youth in grades 9 – 12. It will be held on Wednesday nights, September 22 – October 19 from 7:30 – 8:30 in the youth room. We hope that this series will help get to know one another better as well as learn more about ourselves. Please let me know if you are planning to attend so we can order enough material. Contact Person: Deb Weinrich, deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com.

Aluminum Can Collection

The Senior High Youth continue to collect aluminum cans. Proceeds will go toward the trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA, planned for the summer of 2009. Please place your bagged cans in the wood crate between the two sheds and we will take care of it from there. Thanks for your continued support!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

GOOD SHEPHERD WOMEN'S GROUP

Join us for the first outing of the Good Shepherd Women's Group. This will be a day filled with fellowship, entertainment and planning for upcoming events. We will attend "Enchanted April" at the Hassler Theater on Sunday, October 12th at 2:00 p.m. General admission is \$22 and senior admission is \$20. Group rates are available, depending on the number in our group. Contact person is Deb Weinrich. To register for a fun-filled day, see the "Count Me In" form in you Sunday bulletin, or contact the church office by calling 534-3675 or e-mailing Deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com or Lynn.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com.

LIFEKEYS

In June we held our first Lifekeys session at Good Shepherd. We had 13 participants. Some comments about the class included: "I loved the class. It really opened my eyes. I'm pushing my boundaries a little at a time." "The class is a great way to let people take a look at themselves – inside & out." "I appreciated the focus on being comfortable with what I'm good at." "The interaction was great."

As a *Lifekeys* course participant you may learn more about ways to serve in the church and help you to say "yes" to opportunities. Opportunities that will help you fulfill your life and not just fill up your time. You will uncover what your passions are, the things you are interested in and ways you hope to make a difference. You are valuable just as you are. Whatever gifts God, through his Holy Spirit has blessed you with, they are chosen to fit your way of life, your calling and your mission. Please consider joining our next *Lifekeys* session which will be held November 3, 10, 18 & 24 from 7-8:30pm in the fellowship hall. Cost for the session is \$10 to help cover cost of materials, payable the first night of class.

Watch for sign up opportunities in the "count me in form" or contact Deb Weinrich for more details at deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com.

GOOD SHEPHERD PARENTS CLUB

Parenting is one of the greatest joys and children truly are a gift from God. But parenting is also one of life's biggest challenges. We all want what is best for our children, but it isn't always easy to figure out what is best. One thing that can help is networking with other parents.

Would you like to join other parents like yourself to...exchange ideas with parents of similar aged children, share the highs and lows of parenting, pray for your children, and learn how to better pass your faith on to your kids? If so you are invited to a new parenting group at Good Shepherd. The first meeting is Tues Oct 21 at 7:00 pm at Good Shepherd. From there the group will decide when and where it wants to meet on an on-going basis. Contact Mike Boraas at 358-8034 if you have questions. Childcare will be available, but let Mike know how many kids you will bring, so we can arrange adequate care for the children.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

NEW MEMBERS

A new member orientation and potluck will be held on Sunday, October 19th

On a weekly basis, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is blessed with people who are worshipping at Good Shepherd for the first time, as well as many returning worshippers who are desiring to live out their discipleship as part of the ministry of Good Shepherd. An orientation to Good Shepherd's ministry will be held Sunday, October 19th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Fellowship Hall. This is a time to learn more about Good Shepherd's mission and ministry. Sandwiches and refreshments will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

Those desiring to become members will be received during Sunday morning worship on October 26th, 2008. If you would like to attend this orientation and desire to become a member please contact the church office at 534-3675 or by email to kevin.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com.

Also, we are always looking for more households who would be interested in serving as a "sponsor" for a new members - please contact the church office.

BOX PROJECT UPDATE

E-mail received 9-4-8

Dear Lonnie,

Thanks so much for the school supplies and the book bag for Monique. She was so please to get it. Thanks also for all of the other things. I will write a long letter later. I just wanted you to know and to thank you. I hope everyone is well. We are fine and busy just working hard. Say hello to everyone for us.
Love, Jeanette

MILESTONE MOMENTS

Baptisms...

Blessings to Karly Ann Peter, who was baptized on September 7, 2008. Karly is the daughter of Ben and Jen Peter.

Weddings...

Blessings to Katy Luebke and Mark Johnson, who were married at Good Shepherd on September 13, 2008.

Blessings to Amy Ulwelling and Ron Alger, who were married at Good Shepherd on September 20, 2008.

Blessings to April Dessner and Shane Gullickson, who were married at Good Shepherd on September 27, 2008.

EDUCATION

HARVEST HOE DOWN

The annual Harvest Hoe Down will be held on Sunday, October 26th, during the Sunday School hour. Everyone is welcome to participate. Please bring your own pumpkins to carve. There will be a hay ride, decorating cookies, and other games and activities for all.

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Fifth Graders and Parents: "REAL LIFE FAITH"

This series of three Sunday School classes designed for parents to attend with their children will be on October 5th, 12th, and 19th. Parents and children will learn more about Martin Luther and discover how to connect Bible verses, prayer, and worship to every day life. Fifth graders will lead Martin Luther's Morning Prayer in worship on October 26th.

RELIGIOUS RELEASE TIME FOR 1ST – 6TH GRADES AT P-E-M SCHOOLS

4th, 5th, and 6th grade students: **Wednesday, 8-9 a.m.** @ Trinity Lutheran – Elgin.

Students will be bussed from the school in Elgin at 8:00 a.m. to a classroom at Trinity Lutheran Church in Elgin. Students will be bussed back to school at 9:00 a.m. Local students can go directly to Trinity Lutheran Church at 8:00 a.m., and be bussed back after release time.

1st grade students: **12:05 – 1:05 p.m.** at **Community Presbyterian**

2nd & 3rd grade students: **Wednesday, 12:45 to 1:45 p.m.** at **Community Presbyterian** in Plainview. Students are walked with an adult to and from Release Time activities.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

STILL NEEDED: There is still a need for substitute teachers. If you are interested, please contact Jake Thompson (Thompson.jacob@mayo.edu) or the church office (Lynn.goodshepherd@embargmail.com).

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

Good Shepherd has six general teams that help us carry out our ministry, mission and vision. Within each team, several specific ministries operate. It is our goal to lift up one of these teams and its ministries each month so that we may create an awareness of what these ministries are and recognize those who make them happen. New participants in these ministries and on these teams are always welcome.

In September we lifted up the **Education Team** and its many parts. The newsletter highlighted the many programs that were beginning their new program year and we recognized our Sunday School teachers and our new staff member, Carole Joyce. Our third graders received their Bibles and our Cradle Roll graduates were recognized. Many exciting things are happening in the area of Education and if you ever feel you would like to be a part of that team please let Jake Thompson, Carole Joyce, or Pastor Kevin know.

This month (October) we are lifting up our **Missions and Stewardship Team** and its ministries. The purpose of this team is two-fold. The first is to reach out beyond our walls to bring God's love and care to our local community and to the greater world. This team guides us and provides us with opportunities to be the hands and feet of God - to be His servants. The second purpose is to help us be good stewards of the gifts and talents we have been given and to guide us in using the resources God has provided us with. This is the team who organizes our stewardship drive each year. This once a year drive is the process that gives us an opportunity to look at the gifts and resources God has given each of us and decide how we are going to share those gifts and resources with the ministry that Good Shepherd is called to carry out. The Missions and Stewardship team educates us on how to be good stewards of what we have been given.

The chairperson and council representative for this team is Cheryl Schneider. If you wish to be a part of this team and its work contact Cheryl.

Some specific ministries and contact people within this team are:

Interfaith Hospitality Network - Julene Horstman

Operation Christmas Child - Ginny Mielke

Sharing Tree - Bonnie McMillin

Flood Relief - Lee Olson and Deb Weinrich

Food Shelf - Ginny Mielke and Penny Simonson

Box Project - Lonnie Yust

Fall Stewardship Program - Pastor Kevin and Cheryl Schneider

Each week during October in our worship bulletin, one or two of these ministries will be highlighted. You will find out what it does and the people who work with it. **Thank you** to all those who have worked in the area of **Missions and Stewardship**. God would say, "Well done, my good and faithful servants!"

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP CONTINUED...

Claimed by God through Word and Sacrament we move forward with a NEW VIEW!

A beginning list of Joys to celebrate as we carry out the vision:

- ✚ Average Worship attendance has grown from 113 to 162 in 4 years.
- ✚ Regular and designated giving has grown in 4 years from \$118,000 to \$201,000.
- ✚ Senior High Youth gather each week for prayer, and faith-building and fun.
- ✚ Four years in a row of impact trips to West Virginia, ELCA Youth Gathering, Juarez, Peer Ministry Camp and the Boundary Waters.
- ✚ Benevolence giving in 4 years rises from \$2000 to over \$10,000.
- ✚ Increased worship opportunities in Lent, Advent, and Summer.
- ✚ Tools for ministry: new roof, electrical capacity upgraded, air conditioned sanctuary and narthex, ELW service books, sound system, renovated office, laptop and LCD projector.
- ✚ Support for food shelf increases with volunteers and giving. Garden Tour this year alone gives \$1811 to food shelf.
- ✚ Growth in Service Ministries through the Sharing Tree, Flood Relief work days, Food Shelf, IHN, and "Count Me In."
- ✚ Parents and children learn and play together in Together In Faith, and lead worship.
- ✚ Multiple Touch Ministers offer ongoing care.
- ✚ Growing number of adults involved with our children.
- ✚ Garden Club transforms the look of the grounds.
- ✚ Staffing additions: Part-time Shared Ministry Coordinator (Deb Weinrich), Part-time Congregation Administrator (Lynn Eversman), Part-time Passing on the Faith Facilitator (Carole Joyce).
- ✚ Development of small group ministries for fellowship and service.
- ✚ Broader base of ministry participation with increases in number of worship assistants and ministry team members.
- ✚ Being united in Christ, seeing our lives as ministry!

2008-09 NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you for your partnership and support of the ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Your participation in past stewardship programs has been outstanding. Our giving has continued to annually increase in recent years, allowing us to grow closer to becoming the vision we feel God is calling us to. **Thank you for your generosity in giving.**

Later this month Good Shepherd will begin the 2008 Neighbor to Neighbor Stewardship drive. Like last year's program, each household is being organized into a route of neighbors. Updates and revisions are taking place to further enhance this year's program. Here's how it works:

1. In the middle of October, you will receive a letter that shows what neighborhood grouping you belong to, and when you can anticipate the "relay book" coming to your household.
2. One "relay book," a three ring binder, will be passed along each route. Each household should take time to look through the book and get a glimpse of some of the work of the kingdom happening at Good Shepherd, and what it means to be **"Moving forward with a NEW VIEW"**. After you have looked through the relay book, we ask you to prayerfully consider your plan for giving for 2009 in light of your total income. Each binder will also include a form to be completed with updated household information as well as individual interests and skills. After placing your "statement of intent" and household information into a sealed envelope in the back of the binder, pass it on to the next household.

Thank you again for your participation in this year's Neighbor to Neighbor Stewardship Program.

Birthdays

10/01	Joy Tesmer	10/18	Tyscen Hagen
	Bob Ellinghuysen		Ben Keseley
10/04	Troy Munsch		Ainsley Schwantz
10/05	Jim Barnick		Landon Klennert
	Leslie Ackman	10/19	Todd Rau
	Arlo Simonson		Richard Pett
	Shelley Henry	10/20	Brooke Horstman
	Scott Mattke		Jacinda Lundeen
	Tyler Applen		Jacy Lundeen
10/06	Arich Herrmann	10/23	Terry Yust
10/07	Susan Shanks		Bob Tangen
	Julene Horstman		Jeff Melbostad
10/08	Jasmyne Johnson	10/24	David Froisland
10/09	Taylor Thompson	10/25	Tara Schwantz
10/10	Peg Mattke	10/26	Alyce Tidball
	Matt Anderson	10/27	Collin Buntrock
	Andrew Sackreiter		Anthony Ellinghuysen
10/11	Angie Lehmann	10/29	Mike Sveen
10/12	Eric Grover	10/30	Kris Bedney
10/14	Ken Norregaard		Schuyler Thompson
	Thomas Zimmerman	10/31	Jeremy Amos
10/15	Jeff Henry		Nick Shanks
	Anthony Rosckes		Torin Erickson
10/17	June Barnick		

Anniversaries

10/03	Todd & Colene Rau
	Steve & Tami Sawyer
10/05	Todd & Brook Schwantz
10/06	Howard & Janice Haugstad
	Kenny & Stacy Hutchison
10/13	Mark & Karen Jurgenson
10/14	Bernie & Michelle Klennert
10/16	Kent & Barb Kingsley
10/17	Bob & Susan Shanks
	Mike & Jill Kobler
10/18	Bryan & Tracy Goettl
10/19	Ben & Jen Peter
10/26	Gerald & Leslie Ackman
	Mike & Jeanette Morath
10/27	Kirk & Lily Bartz

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A grudge is a hard thing to carry.

OCTOBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth 7:30 pm Meeting of Parents of Senior High Youth	2 5:30 pm Executive Council Meeting	3 7:00 am – 3:00 pm PEM 8 th Grade Retreat	
5 communion 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ TIF – 5 th Grade Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 9:00 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Education Meeting	8 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth	9 6:00 pm Congregational Life 7:00 pm Council Meeting	10	11
12 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ TIF – 5 th Grade Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 9:00 am Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Worship & Music	15 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth	16	17	18
19 communion 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ TIF – 5 th Grade Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service 5:30 pm New Member Potluck	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Finance Meeting	22 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth	23	24	25
26 8:00 am Worship Service New Members Rec'd 9:15 am Sunday School/ Harvest Hoe-Down Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service New Members Rec'd	29 Pastor's Day Off	28 9:00 a.m. Zumbro Pastor's Conference	29 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth	30	31	

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 news of our church and related events. It is published monthly by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Plainview-Elgin.

VISION STATEMENT, GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.
Educate all from cradle to grave.
Worship in thankfulness and joy.

Value all generations in passing on the faith.
Identify and affirm the gifts of God's people.
Energize God's people to use their gifts for ministry.
Welcome the opportunity to walk the talk with our youth.

The submission deadline for the November 2008 Newsletter is

Wednesday, October 22.