

The Shepherd's Staff

December 2008

Issue 105

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 Kathy Sveen (876-3083) or Karen Anderson (534-3649) during the month of December.

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ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2008

Advent is much more than the time that passes before Christmas day. Each week we gather in awe before God who has already come to us in Jesus Christ and will come again. We live with hope in the present, and we are sent out into the world as ministers in Jesus' name.

December Worship Opportunities

December 7 Advent 2: Prepare for the Coming. Worship with Holy Communion at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Witness Talk shared by Mike Boraas (Good Shepherd Council Member)

December 14 Advent 3: Share the Good News: Jesus is Coming!

Witness Talk shared by Beth Krolak (Seminary Student)

December 21 Advent 4: Participate in Christ's Coming! Worship with Holy Communion at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

*Sunday School Christmas Program during 10:30 a.m. worship

December 28 1st Sunday in Christmas

*College Student Sunday

**Wednesday, December 24th:
Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 & 7:00 p.m.**

**Advent 2008 Midweek Worship
Holden Evening Prayer services on
Wednesdays: December 3rd, 10th, and 17th
at 7:00 p.m.**

ENLARGING THE CIRCLE OF MINISTRY

COTTAGE MEETING UPDATE

Cottage Meetings completed: A time to reflect on what has been shared.

This fall, Good Shepherd has celebrated how God has been faithful and blessed us in ministry. We've celebrated the quick pace that our Shared Vision and Strategic Plan from 2006 is being carried out.

In this spirit we have gathered at cottage meetings to seek God's guidance to be about who and what God has called us to be in this time and place with the gifts we have been given. This process will guide the direction of our future ministry.

This process has been facilitated by Pastor Kathie Nycklemoe, an ELCA pastor and Spiritual Director. Pastor Nycklemoe has led us through the Ignatian discernment model for making a graced decision:

1. Lively faith view – believe that God is present, participate in faith expressions.
2. Core faith experience – “touchstone” – a time when the presence of God was awakened in you.
3. Steadfast prayer – Take time for daily prayer – if even to say thanks at the end of the day.
4. Interior freedom – trust in God's activity, free to look at all the options, all the areas.
5. Willingness to put the result into action – take the risk to be who God wants us to be because we are really about who and what God has called us to be in this place. It's not about how we got here, but what we do with what we have at the time.

We had been given the assignment to pray daily for openness to see God's light in the world, within Good Shepherd, and in our daily activities and to end each day with the question: “Where did I see God?”

As we gathered for a second cottage meeting, we continued to share where we have experienced God, and looked at the gifts God has given us.

In our third cottage meeting on November 17th, participants took time to write down responses and to discuss the following in small groups:

- ❖ What have you heard/seen/experienced in the past several weeks regarding God's presence at Good Shepherd?
- ❖ What would you say is the core value at Good Shepherd?
- ❖ What does Good Shepherd do well?
- ❖ What is one need that Good Shepherd could address?
- ❖ What would you say is your goal, your dream for Good Shepherd?
- ❖ What would you say is God's goal, God's dream for Good Shepherd? (Just a reminder that Ignatian teaches us that God's dream is most often revealed to us through our gifts, through God's word, and through life's circumstances.)

Pastor Nycklemoe is compiling all of the responses that have been shared. For those who were unable to take part earlier, I invite you to take time to prayerfully respond to the questions from the third cottage meeting and to submit them to Pastor Kevin Woestehoff. These collective sharings will be used to focus our ministry gifts and energies in becoming what we humbly hope is God's dream for Good Shepherd. Thank you for being a part of this process.

Seeking God's guidance together,
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

ADVENT

Advent begins on Sunday, November 30. One awesome Advent tradition is daily devotions which draw us into the Christmas story of God's love for us. You are invited to take the devotion books located in the gathering area. One idea is to read them at the dinner table; another is to use it at bedtime. The devotions with stickers are for families with young children. The other is a booklet for adults. Take what you will use. (One sticker book per household please.)

Carole Joyce
269-9374
carole35@charter.net

COOKIE WALK DECEMBER 6 (THIS SATURDAY) 7:30 – 11:00 A.M.

GOT THOSE COOKIES BAKED YET??? If not, you better get baking, as the Cookie Walk is Saturday.

We ask each family to donate between 12-15 dozen Christmas cookies. They can all be of one recipe or a variety of recipes. **Please concentrate on cookies.** Breads, candies, fudge and other treats don't seem to sell as well as cookies; however, we won't turn any of these items away.

We ask that the cookies come on nice platters or decorative boxes (this helps in the cleanup). Also, please write the name of your cookies (or list flavors) so the buyers know what kind of cookies they are. Also, if they have nuts in them, please list what kind (walnuts, pecans, etc).

We need the cookies delivered between 5-8 p.m. on Friday night so we can have them all placed on the tables and ready to go by 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The doors don't open until 7:30, but it seems like every year we have buyers waiting at the door by 7:00 a.m.

We also need a lot of helpers for this event. It is a very short time commitment and it is actually very fun. Youth (4th grade and up) are encouraged to help. We need helpers on Friday night and Saturday morning. Contact Franny Schwantz if you have any questions.

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.

January Meal Schedule

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

Host Family

Family night - Potluck
Simonson Family

Rau Family



“LIGHTS FOR LIFE”

On Saturday, December 6th, 2008, Plainview will hold its Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration and “Lights for Life” luminary display which raises funds for the American Cancer Society.

You are invited to participate in the opening ceremony at Wedgwood Park on Saturday, December 6th at 4:15 p.m. Lynn Holm of Plainview will be our guest speaker this year. Lynn is a former missionary and minister who lost both his wife Marce and daughter Lynette to cancer in 2006. Please come and hear Lynn’s story and powerful message for us all. Following the ceremony, stroll the path of lights from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. and see how many lives cancer has affected in our area.

Luminaries may still be purchased to honor a cancer survivor or remember a loved one lost to cancer; cost is \$5.00 each. To purchase a luminary or make a donation, both of which are tax deductible, please contact Kim Lange, 534-3155, by December 3rd.

THE SHARING TREE

As many of you have probably noticed, The “Sharing Tree” is up and decorated with gift tags. This year, we have 10 families (20 adults and 26 children, ranging in age from 6 months to 17 years) provided to us by the Food Shelf. Select a tag(s) from the tree, shop for those specific items, wrap the gifts and put the gift tag on the outside of the wrapped gift so gifts can be given to the correct families. All gifts need to be under the tree at church by Wednesday, December 10. All gifts will be bagged up and delivered to the Community Center after Advent Service on December 10. Cash donation gifts need to be given to Betty Fahrenz or Bonnie McMillin before December 10 so Lanning’s gift certificates can be purchased. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie McMillin at 507-767-3310.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

That's My Pan!

The Senior High Youth are selling personalized pans and gifts as a way of raising funds for their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Please take time to view the display in the narthex. Order forms, a price list and booklets are available at the display. Feel free to ask friends, family or co-workers to order if you wish. All orders are due by December 7th and items will be available before Christmas. Payment in advance is requested with checks made payable to Good Shepherd Youth. Completed order forms and checks can be placed in the box on the display table. Any questions can be directed to Deb Weinrich or Lily Bartz. Thanks for your continued support of our Senior High youth.

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!

Coffee Shop

The senior high youth will hold their monthly coffee shop on Sunday, December 21 between services. This is the day of the Sunday School Christmas program, so feel free to invite any family or friends who are planning to attend to join us for a roll and cup of flavored coffee. Thanks for supporting our Senior High youth.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

GOOD SHEPHERD PARENTS CLUB

The new parenting group is off and running, but it is not too late to join with other parents 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. For the December 4th meeting we'll meet at 6:00 at the church for Christmas cookie decorating and card making. The kids will help to decorate sugar cookies and make cards from construction paper. The cards and cookie plates will then be given to various folks in the community.

Each family is to bring a dozen sugar cookies to decorate. It would be great if we could get additional families to come and bring cookies to decorate as well.

Supplies Needed:

- Pizza: Mike and Tiff to pick up and bring
- Cookies: each family to bring 1 dozen
- SPRINKLES! - Sally and Kevin
- Frosting - Jill and Chad
- Plates and Plastic wrap - Matt
- Construction paper and materials for cards - Sally and Kevin
- Pop - Jill and Chad

LIFE KEYS

In June we held our first Life Keys 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 *Life Keys* 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 *Life Keys* session which will be held January 19 & 26, February 2 & 9 from 7-8:30 pm 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 (Deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com) for more details.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

GOOD SHEPHERD WOMEN'S GROUP

The second outing of the Good Shepherd Women's Group was again very entertaining (lots of laughter). Some of us met first at The Fresh Wok for supper and then we went to the Jon Hassler Theater and met up with the rest of the group to see the play "Don't Hug Me". While the first play took us to a nice villa in Italy with warm weather and sunny skies, this play took us to Bunyan Bay, Minnesota, on the COLDEST day of the year -- it was SO COLD the residents had trouble with everything imaginable freezing up (for example: "the buns", "the eggs", and even the "Johnsonvilles"). It really makes one wonder why we live in Minnesota during the winter. This play showed us a definite difference between the men's and women's view of romance, but then, I guess we already knew that.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions on what to do next, please contact the church office by calling 534-3675 or e-mailing Deb Weinrich (Deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com) or Lynn Eversman (Lynn.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com). We are always open for suggestions.

BOX PROJECT UPDATE

As has been done in the past, we would like to take up a collection of gifts to send to the Box Project families in Mississippi: the Johnson's and the Washington's.

Beginning November 30th, there will be a labeled collection box in the narthex in which to put Christmas gift donations to be sent to these two families. Gifts need not be wrapped. Gifts are needed for two moms, one adult son, three adult daughters, one teenage daughter, two preteen girls, one preschool boy, and two toddler boys. Gifts will be collected until Dec. 14th, and then wrapped and sent before Christmas. Thank you for your kind donations. Lonnie Yust

MILESTONE MOMENTS

Baptisms...

Blessings to Bryson Robert Lee Boettcher, who was baptized on November 2, 2008. Bryson is the son of Dustin and Heidi Boettcher.

Blessings to Alex Charles Hanson, who was baptized on November 30, 2008. Alex is the son of Matt and Joanna Hanson.

EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School children of Good Shepherd would like to invite members of our congregation, moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, and friends to our 2008 Christmas Program. We will be telling one of the most beloved stories of all time on **December 21st** at the **10:30 worship service**. It is entitled “**Stars! Angels! Shepherds! Kings!**” and is the Christmas story told entirely with music. You will see and hear the story unfold through costumed characters and song. Some of the songs are original to the musical and others you will recognize as old favorites sung every year at Christmas. Please plan to join us on **December 21st at 10:30AM**.

After the worship service, join us for **cake** in the fellowship hall. We will continue our celebration of Jesus’ birthday with a cake in his honor.

The Sunday School children, teachers, and directors look forward to telling the story of Jesus’ birth and to seeing you on **December 21, 2008**.

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you for your participation in the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Stewardship program. Stewardship is about God’s people growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to us. We celebrate the many conversations and prayerful decisions that the people of Good Shepherd have made as we choose how to respond to God’s blessings. Let’s complete this leg of our Stewardship Ministry by completing and returning any remaining stewardship books to the church office in the next few days. Thank you for prayerfully considering your partnership in the mission of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

WORSHIP & MUSIC

COLLEGE STUDENT CONNECTION

On Sunday, December 28th, our college students will be recognized during worship.

In an effort to stay connected with our college students, we would like to update our files. If you have a son or daughter who is a college student, please e-mail their mailing address and e-mail address to the church office at lynn.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com.

VIDEO SYSTEM

The new video camera was installed this past week. Thank you to all who made contributions to allow us to make this purchase. Many people watch our services from their home each week and this camera will allow us to continue to bring our ministry to those who cannot worship in person.

The Video Team



The Book of Faith is an initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Book of Faith initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

During the cottage meeting process, I have heard a hunger by our people to become more fluent in the Bible. I would like to explore more ways we can grow deeper: whether through adult bible studies and forums, small group ministries, home devotions, opportunities to visit about what we have read, and other ways we can be intentional to spend time in God's word.

Here are some immediate resources for the home:

- Taking Faith Home (Yellow insert in every Sunday bulletin)
- Advent devotions for Adults and Children available in the narthex
- Christ in our Home devotion books available in the narthex
- "Daily Texts 2009"

If you would like to receive a copy of "Daily Texts," which has scripture readings and a prayer for each day of 2009 please contact Pastor Kevin. The cost of each book is \$6. Checks can be made to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, with "Daily Texts" in the memo line.

Blessings,
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

MISCELLANEOUS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is coming together to identify and invite Good Shepherd disciples to consider serving as a part of the Good Shepherd Church Council.

If you have someone in mind who you feel is actively living out their discipleship and has the leadership gifts for council please pass on your suggestion to the nominating committee by emailing or speaking with Pastor Kevin. We are especially looking for leaders with a passion for Stewardship Ministry or Property Ministry.

The 2009 elections will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2008

A LETTER FROM RICH AND MARY ANN PETT

November 14, 2008

Dear Pastor Kevin, The Board, and all of God's People at Good Shepherd,

Some of you may know, we are soon to become members of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. Sunday, November 23 is the day. We very strongly felt the need to officially belong to a nearer church community. We feel we have found a home at St. Andrew's.

St. Andrew's is a very large church—different from Good Shepherd. We weren't looking for "large," but found amazing similarities to Good Shepherd and that helped us make our decision. 1) St. Andrew's, as Good Shepherd, preaches the Word; 2) St. Andrew's, as Good Shepherd, is a welcoming place; 3) St. Andrew's people care dearly about others and mission as do the good people of Good Shepherd; but most importantly, at St. Andrew's, as at Good Shepherd, we feel God.

We can't thank you enough for your ministries to us in the relatively short period of time we were blessed to be among you--from our first introduction to Buzz ("Got a church?") to the last sad/happy goodbyes.

We pray for you all and the wonderful work you do through the Spirit. Please pray for us as we join St. Andrew's and attempt to find our place in service to our Lord.

God's Blessings to you all.

With much love and gratitude,

Rich and Mary Ann

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

12/01	Thor Erickson	12/17	Sarah Rosckes
	Erin Bartz		Shelbey Ramthun
	Nicole Bartz	12/18	Rose Grover
12/03	Mary Ann Pett	12/19	Roberta Kurth
	Haley Gudmundson		Hunter Hassig
12/04	Angela Balcome	12/20	Oliva Amos
12/05	Jayda Schwantz	12/21	Kirk Axelson
12/08	Alex Jurgenson		Gannon Olson
12/09	Karen Larson	12/22	Tyler Tesmer
	Michelle Klennert	12/21	Kevin Fuerstneau
12/09	Blake Biers		Tyler Petit
12/11	Jake Thompson	12/24	Erik Peterson
12/13	Joyce Christensen	12/26	Janice Haugstad
	JoAnne Olmstead		Claire Henry
12/15	Adam Endres	12/28	Shane Holst
12/16	Paul Bedney		Lauren Bartz
	Callie Ulwelling	12/29	Kelly Zimmerman
12/17	Linda Schmitz	12/31	Ron Peterson

Anniversaries

12/06	Clark & Shannon Olstad
12/08	Andy & Shasta Hassig
12/15	John & Jane Folkert
12/22	Tom & Karen Anderson
12/23	Dennis & Carol Buntrock
	Chad & Andrea Getschmann
12/28	Al & Deb Ninas
12/30	Casey & Becca Snyder
12/31	Kory & Kareen Bigalk

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

DECEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Pastor's Day Off	2 9:00 am Staff Meeting	3 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Prac 7:00 p.m. Advent Service 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice	4 5:30 pm Executive Council Meeting 6:30 pm Parent's Group	5	6
7 communion 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 9:00 am Staff Meeting	10 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Prac 7:00 p.m. Advent Service 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice	11 3:30 pm Bible study/Betty Fahrenz Home	12	13
14 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Council Christmas Party/Meeting	15 Pastor's Day Off 7:30 pm Education Mtg	16 9:00 am Staff Meeting	17 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Prac 7:00 p.m. Advent Service 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 communion 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service/ SS Christmas Pgm	22 Pastor's Day Off	23	24 4:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service	29 Pastor's Day Off	30 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	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 January 2009 Newsletter is

Monday, December 22.