

The Shepherd's Staff

January 2009

Issue 106

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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 Betty Fahrenz (876-2961) during the month of January.

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EPIPHANY

What is an Epiphany?

An Epiphany is something being revealed. January 6th, the day of Epiphany celebrates Jesus being revealed to the Magi as the Son of God. We celebrate an "epiphany" as any way that Christ continues to be made known. Throughout the Gospels we will hear in worship this season from Jesus' baptism to his transfiguration, he is identified and made known as God's son, the Beloved.

We celebrate Christ being made known as students and teachers prepared for the Christmas program and dug deeper into the story. We celebrate Christ being made known as men and women come together for new small group ministries. We celebrate Christ being made known as we intentionally have more opportunities for adults and children to know the Bible better.

We celebrate Christ being made known in each other as adults came together in cottage meeting to pray and discern where God is leading us in ministry. In the months ahead, the sharings of those cottage meetings will be used to develop a further strategic plan for ministry. In this Epiphany season we are reminded that at the core of our identity, we are called to "Make Christ Known!"

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Fourth Graders & Parents: "THE APOSTLES' CREED"

In this series of Sunday School classes designed for parents and children, learn why Christians use a creed for confessing their faith and what the words mean, as well as how to confess our faith to others each day. The classes will be held on January 11th & 18th. The originally scheduled January 4th session has been cancelled, as fourth graders will be doing a final rehearsal for the January 4th Christmas Program. Fourth graders will lead the congregation in The Apostles' Creed on January 25th during worship.

ENLARGING THE CIRCLE OF MINISTRY

Thank you for your continued partnership in the ministry of Good Shepherd. I'd like to celebrate a few things with you. In the past 15 months we have had some staffing changes and additions that have been a great blessing to our ministry. Lynn Eversman began as our 25 hour/week Congregation Administrator in September of 2007. Deb Weinrich has been serving as a 10 hour/week Shared Ministry Coordinator since last March. Carole Joyce began in September as a 5 hour/week Passing on Faith Facilitator, and Gloria Keseley has given at least 10 hour/week in volunteer hours since August of 2007 to bolster our Worship and Music ministries. These staffing improvements are helping us to bring about a deeper involvement of long term members and to better connect and retain those who are new to Good Shepherd. It is all about growing a deeper faith connection, and seeing our lives as a ministry. I believe these staffing additions are reflected in increased worship attendance. Our average Sunday worship attendance for September through November was 192. In the last 10 years, the highest previous average for those weeks was 177.

We celebrate that in a time where economic turmoil is the daily headline, your giving to ministry efforts has kept pace with the intentions made in last year's stewardship program.

We celebrate that our yearly offerings have grown from \$118,000 in 2003 to 201,000 in 2007. As I write this, our 2008 giving is on track to be a slight increase from last year.

One limitation to our ministry is that it is still heavily influenced by our mortgage. While this situation has obviously improved in recent years, we still live in the reality that such a high percentage going to the mortgage (\$40,000/year), it limits our ability to grow in ministry programming, staffing and benevolence.

The Finance Committee and the Church Council is finalizing a proposed budget for 2009. This process was slowed as a number of the Stewardship books were yet to be returned. Giving for 2009 will dictate our ability to reach benevolence goals, provide ministry programming, pay staff, and maintain our church building.

Blessings to you as we begin another year of ministry,
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

Good Shepherd has six general teams that help us carry out our ministry, mission, and vision. Several specific ministries operate within each team. 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 and encouraged.

We began in September with the Education Team and continued in October with the Missions and Stewardship Team, in November and December the Worship and Music Team, and now in January we will highlight our **Congregational Life and Youth Team**.

The Congregational Life and Youth Team is a fellowship-based team and provides opportunities for our members with common interests to connect outside of worship times. It is the team who looks out for the general health and well being of our congregation by providing opportunities to share our faith in more of a fellowship setting. It is the team who plans larger gatherings of the congregation, reaches out to visitors, helps welcome new members, and reaches out to families in times of need such as illness or death. It is also the team who leads our youth in their spiritual growth by providing them opportunities to grow in their faith and to serve others.

The chairperson and council representative of this team is **Mike Boraas**. The Congregational Life and Youth Team meet at 7:00 pm on the same Thursday of the month as the council meeting. Anyone interested in joining this team or is interested in starting another fellowship or service-oriented group should contact Mike or attend one of the monthly meetings. Listed below you will find the specific ministries and contact people who work within this team at this point in time. This has been a rapidly growing area at Good Shepherd and has potential for more growth. During the month of January, in our weekly worship bulletin, one or two of these ministries will be highlighted. Look for that to come.

Amazing Grays	- Elaine Tesmer
Funeral Ministry	- Lilly Bartz
Gourmet Club	- Deb Weinrich
Multiple Touch	- Kathy Sveen
New Member Orientation	- Pastor Kevin
Parents Group	- Mike Boraas
Parish Nurse	- Betty Fahrenz
Prayer Team	- Barb Peck
Sr. High Youth Group	- Deb Weinrich
Visitor Follow-up	- Franny Schwantz
Women's Group	- Deb Weinrich

Many wonderful opportunities to connect with other members of our congregation are offered at Good Shepherd and you are welcome to join any of them you are interested in. In January you will have the opportunity to learn more about these ministries - what they do and who makes them happen.

May all of you have a Blessed New Year and during the New Year may your faith be strengthened and deepened by your connections with others.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

7TH & 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Confirmation resumes on Wednesday, January 7th, with a "Crossroads" evening. **Parents and students should meet together in the fellowship hall** for the usual 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. timeframe. This will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass and a beverage of your choice. As we kick-off the second half of the year, this will be an important time to come together.

January Meal Schedule

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

Host Family

Family night - Potluck
Simonson Family

Rau Family

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

"That's My Pan"

Thank you for your order from The Good Shepherd Youth Group and "That's My Pan". All orders are in and can be picked up in the narthex. If you have any questions about your order, please call Lily Bartz at 534-3108 or Deb Weinrich at 534-4256.

If you, or someone you know, would like to order any additional items, we can place one more order by the end of January. Please call Lily or Deb at the phone numbers mentioned above.

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, January 18th between services. Gourmet coffees, hot chocolate and rolls will be served. Thanks for supporting our Senior High youth.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

BOX PROJECT UPDATE

Email received 12-15-08

Dear Lonnie,

How are you and your family? We are really having some cold weather. It is sleeting now and so cold. The kids got out of school at noon today.

Sometime ago you sent me some herb tea. It was a different flavor. Could you send me some for Christmas? What you sent is all out. Our stores don't carry it.

You asked how our Thanksgiving was. It was alright. We just sat at around at home and watched TV. We didn't have dinner this year at the church because it was such bad weather. I fixed soup and corn bread. I know you had a wonderful time.

If you can't send the tea, don't worry about it.

I hope you have a good holiday. I hope we do too. May God bless and keep you and your family and everyone at church. This is our prayer.

Love from Jeanette, Melissa, Dedrick, and Monique

Email received on 12-24-08

Lonnie,

We got your gifts you sent and also the money order. Thank you so much. We are so thankful for your help. I will write you later after the holidays and really thank you and the people that are so willing to help us. Thank you again and may God bless you on this holiday.

Love, Jeanette and family

Email received 12-25-08

Hi Lonnie,

How are you doing? I received the money order and the boxes safely. The boxes went to the old house, but the guy that lives there now brought them to me. Everyone says thank you for the presents, and I appreciate the money for the food. It went a long way. I was able to buy all the meat for my dinner. We have some cold weather, but no snow. We don't get snow here. I would love to see some snow.

I was selected Teacher of the Year at my school for this school term. There will probably be some fallout at the school because there are some jealous people at the school where I work. I hope your New Year is very prosperous. Thanks again.

Love, Lisa

THANK YOU to all who donated money and gifts for the Box Project Families. Enough money was donated to be able to send \$50.00 to each family for their holiday meals. Two presents per person were wrapped and sent to the families for Christmas.

Donations to the two families can be made any time during the year. Just bring the items to the church office and label them "Box Project."

THANK YOU (as always) to Neil and Dar Weaver of ABA for paying the postage on the boxes that are sent to the Box Project families.

Lonnie Yust

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

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.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Good Shepherd Women's group meets every month or so for a fun, social outing. All women are welcome. Our group continues to grow and we share a lot of laughs.

After seeing wonderful productions at the Hassler Theater in October and November, we took the busy month of December off. Now with January upon us, we need to plan another get-together. If you have an idea, please e-mail the details to Deb Weinrich at deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com or give Deb a call at home (534-4256) or at the church office (534-3675).

Watch the bulletin announcement page and "Count Me In" form for details and sign up information.

THE SHARING TREE

Following is a note received from Darlene Goergen (head of the Plainview Food Shelf)

"Merry Christmas Bonnie, and thanks so much for all you do for the Food Shelf Christmas!! I wish you a very Happy New Year! Please relay a big thank you to the congregation for their wonderful generosity. It is greatly appreciated!"

Darlene Goergen

Bonnie McMillin, who heads up the Good Shepherd Sharing Tree, also wants to say "Thank You" to the congregation for all their support to this year's Sharing Tree.

EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas Program has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 4th during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. One final rehearsal will take place during the Sunday School hour. Thank you to the Christmas Program directors, students, teachers and everyone involved in preparing and carrying out a great Christmas program.

After the worship service, cake will be served in the fellowship hall.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

PLAINVIEW CLERGY ASSOCIATION PREACHER EXCHANGE

On Sunday, January 18th, Good Shepherd will again take part in the Plainview Area Clergy Association Preacher Exchange. This ecumenical celebration happens in the middle of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will host Pastor Paul Moore from Community Presbyterian Church. Pastor Moore is in his last weeks as the pastor of Community Presbyterian, as he has accepted a call to serve as a mission developer in Lino Lakes, MN. Pastor Kevin Woestehoff will be preaching at the Plainview Church of Christ.

COUNCIL NEWS

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Four council positions will be up for election at the January 25th 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 Kathy Sveen, Misty Biers, Darald Bothun and Pastor Kevin Woestehoff.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

MILESTONE MINISTRY

A team of people is forming to look at the ways that Good Shepherd recognizes and celebrates milestones (baptisms, First Communion, graduations, 3rd grade Bibles, beginning SS, receiving drivers' license, retirement...). These are times when we want to name God's sacred presence in our journey through life. Thanks to those of you who have already volunteered! Anyone else who is interested in being a part of this ministry is invited to join us—we want your ideas!

Monday, January 12th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm will be a milestone work meeting to dig into

- What is a milestone?
- How is Good Shepherd already celebrating milestones?
- Where should we go from here?

Coming in January...

Sunday Morning Adult Class: “Growing to Be the Adults that Children Need”

The education hour is long enough for fellowship, coffee, **and** a chance to learn and grow. So join Carole Joyce from **9:30-10:15 am on Sundays January 4 and 11** to think about our role as faithful adults in the lives of our children. We will study the Bible, tell stories, and wonder together about how God calls each of us to journey in faith-filled ways with children. Come even if your children are already grown. As the people of God we are called to care about **all** of the children of God.

CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION/BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Congregational Celebration and business meeting will be on Sunday, January 25th from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. The proposed budget will be previewed the week before, January 18th at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

01/01	Merlin Mielke		01/21	Ian Norregaard
	Annie Weinrich			Marjahanna Hanson
01/02	Kathy Sveen		01/23	Gloria Keseley
	Grace Wangen			Logan Buntrock
	Christian Wangen		01/24	Al Fravert
01/03	Tayla Erickson			Fran Grover
01/04	Tucker Johnson			Deb Weinrich
	Charli Yust			Aaron Peterson
01/05	Don Weinrich		01/25	Stuart Sexton
01/06	Matt Schwartz			Hayley Rau
01/08	Ron Kurth			Hunter Rau
01/12	Tammy Peterson			Evan Kobler
01/13	Tanner Mielke		01/26	Darald Bothun
01/14	Dennis Buntrock		01/29	Sally Woestehoff
	Paul Anderson			Robby Peterson
	Frank Horstman			Jessica Rohlik
01/18	Don Fiskum		01/31	Tiffany Boraas
	Bill Albers			Randi Fravert
01/21	Todd Scripture			

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONS
OR CORRECTIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.**

(no anniversaries were shown in January)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

***Our job isn't to change the message.
Our job is to let the message change us.***

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22.