

The Shepherd's Staff

February 2009

Issue 107

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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 Lynn Eversman (534-2336) or Bonnie McMillin (767-3310) during the month of February.

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Sunday Morning Adult Class in February "Growing to Be the Adults that Children Need"

Join Carole Joyce from 9:30 -10:15 am on Sundays Feb 8, 15, 22, and March 1 to think about our role as faithful adults in the lives of our children. Weekly topics include: What Kids Need, What's Faith Got to Do With It?, Who Me?, and What Does This Mean For Us? We'll 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.

LENTEN SUPPER & WORSHIP Lent begins with Ash Wednesday February 25, 2009

Each Wednesday Lenten suppers begin at 5:30 p.m. They are hosted by the senior high youth ministry.

At 7 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for Worship. On Ash Wednesday, February 25th our worship will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion

The following five Wednesdays we will worship with "That You May Have Life," a worship setting arranged by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl.

Confirmation students and parents are especially encouraged to worship together on these Wednesday evenings.

CONGREGATION NEWS

Brief Summary of the Cottage Meetings

As we gathered together for cottage meetings this fall, we celebrated where we have experienced God. We also gathered to discern where God is leading us in ministry. After compiling all of the sharing from this time, two major themes rose to the surface:

1. We feel called to grow deeper in faith.
2. We feel called to grow in service to the world around us.

As we have done previously, we will develop and carry out a strategic plan to fulfill the vision.

Annual Meeting/Celebration

During our annual meeting/celebration the following people were elected to serve:

Church Council

Arlo Simonson (1 year term – Property)
Debbie Bristow (3 year term – Executive Committee)
Misty Biers (3 year term – Missions & Stewardship)
Gary Melbostad (3 year term – Worship & Music)

Nominating Committee (All terms are for 1 year)

June Barnick, Todd Wangen, Bonnie McMillan, and Penny Simonson

Delegates for the Good Earth Village Annual Meeting

Al & Randi Fravert

Coming in April ...Marilyn Sharpe

Marilyn Sharpe from Youth and Family Institute will be with us at Good Shepherd on Sunday, April 26th. Look forward to worship, a simple lunch, and a learning event for parents, teachers, and all others who care about children and youth.

Food Shelf In Need Of A Volunteer

The Food Shelf is in need of a Wednesday morning volunteer who would be able to handle unloading boxes of food from the delivery truck and carrying them into the Food Shelf. Hours would be **approximately** from 9:00 a.m. until noon. If interested, call Darlene Goergen or Kay Rasmussen at the Food Shelf (534-3802).

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

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.

February Meal Schedule

February 4
February 11
February 18
February 25

Host Family

Getschmann Family
Marc & Rachael Anderson
Fick Family
Soup Supper - Lent

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Lenten Suppers

Once again our Senior High Youth and their families will be serving suppers during lent. This begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25th, and continues through April 1st. All suppers will be served on Wednesday evenings in the fellowship hall from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. The menu will include a variety of homemade soups (come early for best selection), a light sandwich with Great Harvest bread, and a delicious dessert, as well as drinks. A free will offering will be collected with a suggested donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 10 years and under. All proceeds will go toward the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering trip. Take a night off from cooking and join us for good food and fellowship.

Wednesday Night Schedule

February 4 Preparing for ELCA Youth Gathering
February 11 Nooma Video and Discussion
February 18 Peer Ministry
February 25 Ash Wednesday (5:30 p.m. Soup Supper, 7:00 p.m. Worship)

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...

BOX PROJECT UPDATE

E-mail received 1-2-9

Dear Lonnie,

Happy New Year from my family to yours. We are fine. Thanks for making our holiday so happy with the gifts and donations. Please give all a big thank you from all of us. Bless all of you.

Love, Jeanette and family

E-mail received 1-12-9

Dear Lonnie,

Monique is in a formal gathering at her school on Feb. 13th. She need a ball gown. Do any of your daughters have one that she could have. I could make it fit. As you know I cut down lots of things you send and make them work. Please let me know what you can do, if anything. Thank you so much in advance. I think the tea you sent was by Lipton. It was herbal tea and I really liked it. It is so cold here today and going to be colder tomorrow. I am in a hurry so I will talk later.

Love, Jeanette

E-mail received 1-23-9

Dear Lonnie,

I got the box today. Thanks so very much. The gown is so pretty. I have to take it in some and hem it. I thought I would not cut it, so we can use it more than one time, if she ever needs it again. I want to put a flower at the waist of the dress to set it off some to match her shoes. Thanks a million. Monique is so proud of it.

How is your weather? It is cold here. The sun is out but it's cold. We are getting rain tonight and tomorrow. Tell everyone hello for us.

Monique's friend and classmate's mother died. She was forty-eight years old. Monique was so sad. Kids do not understand.

Love, Jeanette

COUNT ME IN

We have been including the "Count Me In" forms in the Sunday morning bulletins for about 6 months now. These are always printed on bright blue paper and include a variety of opportunities to serve or join in fellowship activities. A big thanks to those of you who take the time to read about what's offered and sign up to serve or join in the fun. This completed form can be left in the church office or placed in the offering plate.

Please note that any member can add to the opportunities in the "Count Me In" form. If you have a Good Shepherd related event that you would like help with, whether this involves bringing food, donating time, etc., please let the office know. We will run this in the "Count Me In" form for 2-3 weeks. Please check the form for new opportunities weekly.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Good Shepherd Women's group did not meet in December; however, in January a group of women met at Whistle Binkies North for an evening of good food, fellowship, fun, and to plan some activities for the upcoming months. So, watch the bulletin announcement page and "Count Me In" form for details of upcoming events and sign up information. Contact Deb Weinrich if you have any suggestions, ideas, or questions for and/or about the Women's Group (Deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com).

PARENT'S GROUP

The February meeting of the Good Shepherd Parent's Group will be Thursday evening, February 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the church. This meeting will be used to plan the next group activity. All who are interested in joining the group are welcome to attend.

EDUCATION

TOGETHER IN FAITH

Second graders and their parents will meet in the nursery from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. on February 1st and 8th. These two sessions will be a time of serious fun, where we'll face one of our children's greatest frustrations – that life isn't fair! Discover together how to cope with life's unfairness and learn what God considers the fair facts. On Sunday, February 15th our Second graders will recite a Bible verse during worship.

First graders and their parents will connect on February 15th & 22nd for two special sessions on the "Ten Commandments." Sessions happen during the 9:15-10:15 Sunday School hour. We will gather in the nursery.. Students will recite the 10 commandments at worship on March 1st.

THREE-DAY EXCELLENT ADVENTURE FOR 1st – 6th GRADERS

Good Shepherd 1st – 6th graders are invited to join with Mount Olive in Rochester on a three day Excellent Adventure this summer. June 10-12 they will be taking a bus on a three-day long excursion to explore God's world! Possibilities include Niagra Cave, Whitewater State Park, and the Minnesota Zoo. It would be fun to send a group of students and a few adults from Good Shepherd. Check your calendars and talk to your friends. Talk to Carole Joyce if you are interested or want to know more.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...



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.

Here at Good Shepherd you have voiced your desire to grow deeper in faith and to “become more fluent” in the language of scripture. Here are some current resources Good Shepherd is offering:

LET’S FOLLOW THROUGH ON OUR DESIRE TO GROW DEEPER IN OUR FAITH!

“Growing to be the Adults that Children Need”

Join Carole Joyce from 9:30 -10:15 am on Sundays Feb 8, 15, 22, and March 1 to think about our role as faithful adults in the lives of our children. Weekly topics include: What Kids Need, What’s Faith Got to Do With It?, Who Me?, and What Does This Mean For Us? We’ll 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.

The Gospel of Mark: Reading and Growing Together in the Good News

Beginning Sunday March 8th through April 5th, there will be a small group gathering in the sanctuary to look closer at the Gospel of Mark. We will meet from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Kevin will lead an introductory session on March 8th. Each following session will be led by a facilitator who will guide the group in reading part of Mark’s gospel and sharing questions and reflections.

There is no required preparation to attend these sessions. However, the Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, and can be read completely in less than two hours.

Here are some other immediate resources for growing deeper in faith:

- ❖ Taking Faith Home (Yellow insert in every Sunday bulletin)
- ❖ 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, they are available in the narthex. The cost of each book is \$6. Checks can be made to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, with “Daily Texts” in the memo line.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

Good Shepherd has changed their format for this summer's VBS. We will be offering the Adventurers camp at Good Earth Village for any students completing grades K-4. This is a one day camp on Tuesday, August 4th. The camp runs from 9 to 4 with lunch provided. Good Shepherd will pay the camp fee and provided transportation to and from GEV in Spring Valley. If you would like to participate in this great opportunity please complete and return the form below by March 1. After this date we can't guarantee a reserved spot for you. If you have any questions please call Jake Thompson at 798-2336.

NAME: _____

GRADE (2008-2009): _____

PARENTS' NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT AND PHONE NUMBER:

_____ **I am available and willing to drive campers to and from Good Earth Village in Spring Valley.**

Please return this to your Sunday School teacher or the church office by March 1.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

June 1-3 from 6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

Activities and learning are planned for 3 year olds through 4th graders.

5th graders on up are encouraged to teach, help, or participate in the adult/youth Bible study.

Parents or grandparents of preschoolers are invited to attend with the children – an opportunity to play and pray together.

Kickoff with worship and activities will be Sunday, May 31.

Teachers, helpers, and organizers are needed. Sign up on the "Count Me In" form in Sunday's bulletin, call (534-3675) or email (Lynn.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com) Good Shepherd today, or talk to Jake Thompson or Carole Joyce.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

MILESTONES MINISTRY

What is Milestones Ministry?

Passing on the faith is at the heart of who we are called to be as People of God. Milestones are significant happenings throughout our lives: Birth/Adoption, Baptism, Receiving first bible, Receiving a driver's license, Starting a new job, Retirement, etc. Milestones Ministry helps us to make a connection between these events and our faith in God who is present at all of these milestones. At this time at Good Shepherd, we are focused on developing the Baptism Milestone.

Here are three elements to the Baptism Milestone:

Worship Celebration – Celebrating the milestone of baptism during worship

Intergenerational Learning Event – A time of connecting multiple generations in learning about Baptism, and sharing ideas of how to nurture faith.

A gift that helps nurture faith - At each baptism, the family will receive a faith chest (basket) with gifts that help to nurture faith. Currently the faith chest will be given along with a fleece blanket, baptismal certificates, baptismal candle and napkin, and a DVD of the worship service.

The faith chest can be used as a home altar. You can picture a family opening the chest at bedtime, and taking each item out that would tell something about God's love for them. For instance, the blankets could have faith symbols on it (lamb, cross, etc.)

Just a few words as you point to each item can provide a powerful witness of the God who claimed you in the waters of baptism. Here are a few examples:

Cross – “Jesus died on the cross for us.”

Lamb – “God is our Good Shepherd who will never leave us, but will see us through anything and everything.”

Faith Chest – “This chest was given by the people from our church. They believe in Jesus. They want you to know how much Jesus loves you.

Milestones Ministry Event – Making Baby Blankets

On Wednesday, March 4th baby blankets will be made in the fellowship hall during the 5:30 – 7 p.m. supper time. **This event will be a success if we can bring people of different generations together.** We will be cutting and tying fleece blankets that will be given as a gift to each baptized baby. This multigenerational event is part of celebrating the Baptism Milestone. The making of these blankets is a great opportunity to connect our younger generation with faith-filled loving adults, as we provide a gift for the newly baptized. Come on out and join in the making of these blankets, as we celebrate the gift of God's love. There will be a blessing of these blankets during the March 22nd worship services.

Milestones Ministry Team Members: Betty Fahrenz, Bonnie McMillan, Renee Bergstrom, Lee Olson, Shelley Henry, Karen Jurgenson, Sally Woestehoff, Kareen Bigalk, and Carole Joyce – Passing on the Faith Facilitator.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

02/01	Riley Wendt	02/17	Jonathan Timm
02/05	Jon Amos	02/18	Franny Schwantz
	Barb Kingsley		Monica Anderson
02/07	Sandy Ulwelling	02/20	Carol Buntrock
02/10	Neil Weaver		Jenny Yust
	Shannon Olstad	02/21	Steve Erwin
	Luke Gelner		Lorne Lundeen
02/11	Abbey Christison		Joe Weinrich
	Katie Kappauf	02/22	Buzz Christison
	Nikki Goergen		Bruce Iverson
02/12	Chad Getschmann	02/25	Elaine Salek
02/14	Andrea Bartz	02/26	Shelli Tradup
	Megan Fick		Kory Bigalk
	Morgan Fick	02/27	Don Tradup
02/15	Dustin Boettcher		Kirk Bartz
02/16	Cindy Rettmann	02/28	Corrine Hanson
	Paul Fick		Andrea Masee
02/17	Jan Fiskum		

Anniversaries

02/06	Bob & Sue Tangen
02/14	Jim & Char Balcome
02/16	George & Karen Back
	Steve Fenske & Carol Goergen-Fenske
02/20	Morey & Mary Applen

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

***Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited --
UNTIL you try to sit in their pews.***

(Do you know anyone like this????)

FEBRUARY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 communion 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 9:15 am TIF – 2 nd Grade 10:30 am Worship Service &	2 Pastor's Day Off 7:00 pm Lifekeys Class	3 9:00 am Staff Meeting	4 Congregational Life/ Youth Meeting 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth 7:30 pm Adult Choir PASTOR AT CONTINUING ED	5 3:30 pm Bible Study ----->	6 ----->	7 ----->
8 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 9:15 am TIF – 2 nd Grade 9:30 am Adult Forum with Carole Joyce 10:30 am Worship Service PASTOR RETURNS	9 Pastor's Day Off 7:00 pm Lifekeys Class	10 9:00 am Staff Meeting	11 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth 7:30 pm Adult Choir	12 7:00 pm Council Meeting	13	14
15 communion 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 9:15 am TIF – 1 st Grade 9:30 am Adult Forum with Carole Joyce 10:30 am Worship Service	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 9:00 am Staff Meeting	18 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth 7:30 pm Adult Choir	19 7:00 pm Parent's Group	20	21
22 communion 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 9:15 am TIF – 1 st Grader 9:30 am Adult Forum with Carole Joyce 10:30 am Worship Service	23 Pastor's Day Off	24 9:00 – 1:00 Pastor at Zumbro Conf.	25 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm Lenten Services 7:30 pm Senior High Youth 7:30 pm Adult Choir ASH WEDNESDAY	26	27	28

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 March 2009 Newsletter is

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22.