

# The Shepherd's Staff

March 2009

Issue 108

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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 Franny Schwantz (876-2253) or Joyce Christensen (876-2385) during the month of March.*

## Inside This Issue

- 2-4 Congregational Life/Youth
- 5-6 Education
- 7 Finance
- 8 Youth & Family Ministry
- 9 Birthdays & Anniversaries

## 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 7:00 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for Worship. On Ash Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## THE SEASON OF LENT: Growing deeper in faith, Growing closer together

In our fall cottage meetings, we discerned a calling as a congregation to grow deeper in faith. With Ash Wednesday on February 25<sup>th</sup>, we began the season of Lent. Lent is a season for looking intently toward Jesus, and longing to know him better. How are you being called to grow deeper this season and in this time of your life? Many will gather two days a week for worship, with worship opportunities on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. This may be a time to grow in a pattern of worship or to try out a bible study, or the "Four Key" faith practices found in the weekly "Taking Faith Home" resource. This season is an invitation to grow deeper in faith.

It's also a season of community! We don't make this journey alone. We see the need for connecting with each other as new small groups have started this past year. We indeed experience Christ in each other! Each Wednesday during Lent (March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1) at 5:30 p.m. will mark the beginning of a community meal in our fellowship hall that is hosted and organized by our Senior High Youth Ministry. This can be a great opportunity to not only enjoy a meal that someone else has prepared, but it is an opportunity to get to know each others stories more deeply.

Blessings to you as we journey in faith together!  
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

## 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

During Lent, confirmation students are to be a part of Wednesday night meals and worship with their parents.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents will meet in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. to see how their faith statements are coming along.

## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

During Lent, senior high students are to be a part of Wednesday night meals and worship. There are no other scheduled activities for them during this time.

### Lenten Suppers

Once again our Senior High Youth and their families will be serving suppers during Lent. This begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, and continues through April 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 per adult and \$3 per child 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.

Also, a question was asked...yes you may choose to "pre-pay" for all Lenten soup suppers. One check can be written out to cover the cost of all six meals or as many as you plan to attend. The cost is considered a donation, so one check may be easier to track for your records. Checks should be made payable to Good Shepherd Youth. Great idea, Sarah!!

### 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,,,

## FOOD SHELF

### March is important to your local food shelf.

Use of the Plainview-Elgin Area Food Shelf continued to increase in 2008. On average, 123 different households were served by the food shelf each month. This level of service marks an increase of more than 60% over 2007, and more than double that of 2005.

Good Shepherd funding and volunteers made a difference in helping to keep the shelves stocked and customers served in 2008; reducing stress for an increasing number of households in our community. Good Shepherd funds about \$2,500 of its donations to the food shelf through four noisy offerings per year, and Wednesday evening offerings during Advent and Lent. Last fall's supplemental fund-raising efforts recently contributed yet another \$410 for the food shelf, as Thrivent partially matched funds raised during that timeframe. The summer Garden Tour proceeds were also partially matched by Thrivent.

Timely contributions, such as the fund-matching opportunities with Thrivent, can really make your donations grow. March is an excellent month to extend your food shelf contributions. During March, Minnesota FoodShare coordinates a state-wide campaign to raise funds, food, and awareness of the increasing hunger problem in the state of Minnesota. Coordinating with corporations, businesses, civic, religious, education and other groups, they raise over half of the funds and food that will be distributed throughout the state. They have been doing this for 26 years.

MN FoodShare distributes funding to local food shelves, including the one in Plainview, twice per year, with 50% of the total distributed in each instance. The funding comes from their March campaign efforts. The second distribution is based on how many people utilize the food shelf. The first distribution, however, is based on how much the individual food shelves raise for themselves during the month of March. The more they raise for themselves, the more they get from MN FoodShare. This is why it's so important to give during March, and why your timely donation can make a bigger difference.

Good Shepherd's March 8<sup>th</sup> noisy offering will go to the food shelf. If you'd like to take this timely opportunity to beef up our contributions, consider adding an extra check on March 8<sup>th</sup> or anytime during the month. (Wednesday Lenten offerings) Make your check payable to Good Shepherd, but note that it's for the food shelf in the memo area. This approach helps Good Shepherd track benevolence giving and means we can cut one or two checks to the food shelf during the month, help with the food shelf's March campaign, and ultimately beef up their funding from MN FoodShare later in the year.

## BOX PROJECT UPDATE

E-mail received 2-9-9

Hi Lonnie,

How are you and the family doing? I am doing good. I'm ready for spring break already. I had a wonderful Christmas. I didn't go anywhere. I just laid around the house relaxing. The girls were home for Christmas. I was glad for Shaquitta to be home because she had her baby. Dreka is still being Dreka. At this point, I don't care if she's not speaking to me because she can not run my life. Lavonne and Destiny are doing well. My class is coming back. I will write later.

Love, Lisa

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED...

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND POTLUCK

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, April 19<sup>th</sup> 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 April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. 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](mailto:kevin.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com).

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

## SMALL GROUPS

In the past year, several Good Shepherd small groups have formed under the direction of the Congregational Life committee. Some of these groups meet within the walls of our church and some meet on a regular basis for more social or fellowship related events. These groups include the parenting group, gourmet club and the women's group.

Is there a group that you would like to get started or be a part of? Some ideas are, but not limited to: a bible study group, a support group for those with aging parents, a group interested in organizing an adult mission trip, etc. Please check the "Count Me In" form for opportunities to get involved. If you have an idea for a small group, but need help getting started, please contact Deb Weinrich at [deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com](mailto:deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com). I'd be happy to work with you.

## WOMEN'S GROUP

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> the Good Shepherd Women's group went to the Hasler Theater to see the P-E-M high school students perform "South Pacific". The students did an OUTSTANDING job! We are especially proud of the Good Shepherd members who took part in the play in one way or another ("Zippy" Schmidt, Emma Lange, Kelsey Petit, Nick Lange, Matthew Keseley, Kendall and Ian Norregaard, and Don and Jan Fiskum).

On Friday evening, March 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be going to see the play "The Passion" at Bethel Lutheran Church in Rochester. "The Promise" is a musical-drama about the life of Jesus Christ. If interested in attending this play, please fill out the "Count Me In" form in your bulletins or contact the church office (534-2336) as soon as possible so tickets can be gotten. Price of tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for youth (17 and under).

Contact Deb Weinrich if you have any suggestions, ideas, or questions for and/or about the Women's Group ([Deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com](mailto:Deb.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com)).

# EDUCATION

## TOGETHER IN FAITH

### 1<sup>st</sup> Graders and Parents: “THE TEN COMMANDMENTS”

1<sup>st</sup> graders and their parents will connect on March 1st & 8th for two special sessions on the “Ten Commandments.” Sessions happen during the 9:15 -10:15 a.m. Sunday School hour. We will gather in the nursery. Students will recite “The Ten Commandments” at worship on March 15th.

### 3-Year-Olds and Parents: “PRAYING TOGETHER”

These two sessions will help parents and children learn to pray together. On March 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> parents should plan to attend Sunday School with their child for the parent-child class, “Praying Together.” We will have lots of fun while learning together. The 3 year-old class will lead the congregation in prayer during worship on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

### 4-Year-Olds and Parents: “THE KEYS”

During these two sessions, we will learn how to say “I’m sorry” and “I forgive you” to God and to one another. Children this age have learned what it means to break the rules, and need to know how to make things right with others and with God. On March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> parents should attend the parent-child Sunday School classes with their child. The 4-year-old class will lead the congregation in confession and forgiveness during the worship on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

## ADULT FORUMS

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

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:

### “Growing to be the Adults that Children Need”

Led by Carole Joyce on Sunday March 1 from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

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

Beginning Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> through April 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>. 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.

# **EDUCATION CONTINUED...**

## **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.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND SAVE THESE DATES NOW...**

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009** **June 1-3 from 6:00 – 7:45 p.m.**

Activities and learning are planned for 3 year olds through 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Watch for registration later this month. Thanks to those who have already signed up to help! 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](mailto:Lynn.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com)) Good Shepherd today, or talk to Jake Thompson or Carole Joyce.

## **THREE-DAY EXCELLENT ADVENTURE FOR 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> GRADERS**

Good Shepherd 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **ADVENTURERS CAMP AT GOOD EARTH VILLAGE**

This one-day camp is for any students completing grades K-4. It will be held on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Good Shepherd will pay the camp fee and provide transportation to and from Good Earth Village in Spring Valley. If you would like to participate in this camp, return the form found in your Sunday's bulletin (or get a copy from the office) by **MARCH 1**. After this date, a spot cannot be guaranteed for you. Contact Jake Thompson (798-2366) with any questions.

# FINANCE

## 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, in January and February the Congregational Life and Youth Team, and now in March we will highlight the **Finance Team**.

**The Finance Team** exists to ensure that the church is fiscally responsible by using financial tools such as a budget that is useful in managing the assets of the congregation, at all times exercising good stewardship skills when utilizing the gifts that God has given to us to use as a congregation. The Finance Team consists of the **Treasurer/Finance Chair, Tom Anderson, the Bookkeeper, June Barnick and the Congregational Administrator/Financial Secretary, Lynn Eversman**. Other members of the team are **Pastor Kevin Woestehoff** and **Chad Gelner**. One of the volunteer ministries that fall under the Finance Team umbrella is the Offering Counters ministry.

The duties of the Finance Team are:

- A. Host a budget meeting prior to the annual meeting to preview the next year's proposed budget.
- B. Conduct an internal audit of financial bookkeeping.
- C. Maintain and evaluate insurance policies of the congregation.

During the 2008 year the finance committee adapted the following policies and procedures:

- Cash Receipts Policy
- Cash Disbursements Policy
- Purchase vouchers and reimbursement requests procedures
- Offering counter procedures
- Payroll Policy
- Financial Statement Policy

As you can see, this is a busy team with huge responsibilities! It is a team that has worked hard to update, revise and create many necessary policies. In the coming weeks in our Sunday worship bulletin, you will find more information on what each of these team members do and what the offering counters ministry is about.

Good Shepherd is very grateful to this team for it's willingness to take on the important and challenging job of managing our finances. These folks have very good backgrounds in the area of finance and we appreciate their willingness to share their expertise with us. Thank you to Tom, June, Lynn, Pastor Kevin and Chad for their endless hours of work and dedication.

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## MILESTONES MINISTRY

### Milestones Ministry Event – Making Baby Blankets

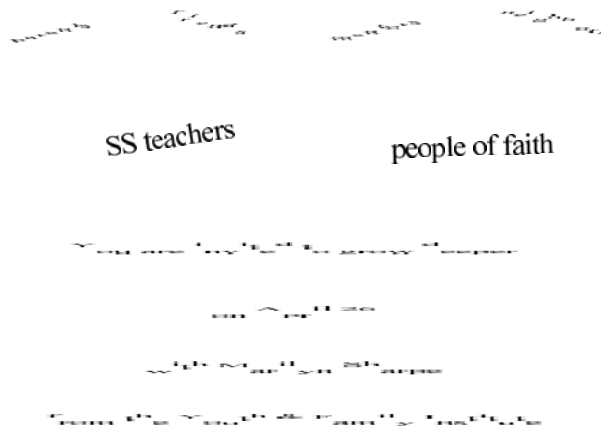
On Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> baby blankets will be made in the fellowship hall during the 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. supper time. **This event will be a success if we can bring people of different generations together.** We will be cutting and tying fleece blankets that will be given as a gift to each baptized 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 22<sup>nd</sup> worship services.

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

## COMING IN APRIL...MARILYN SHARPE

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

### **Growing in Faith Together**



Marilyn's stories, humor, and practical ideas will inspire and challenge us to grow in faith together.

- \*\* She will lead us in worship at both 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services
- \*\* A simple lunch begins at noon with interactive learning to follow.
- \*\* People from Mount Olive have been invited to join us in this exciting opportunity
- \*\* By 2:00 p.m. we will be on our way home

# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## Birthdays

<b>03/01</b>	Joshua Burke	<b>03/19</b>	Bonnie McMillin
<b>03/02</b>	Candace Olstad		Daniel McCann
	Jordyn Anderson		Gage Hanson
<b>03/05</b>	Larissa Jurgenson	<b>03/20</b>	Randy Wendt
<b>03/06</b>	Owen Johnson		Carter Balcome
<b>03/07</b>	Jane McCann	<b>03/22</b>	Jim Balcome
	Megan Froisland		Jeremy Tesch
<b>03/08</b>	Joan Boyer	<b>03/23</b>	Angela Loucks
<b>03/09</b>	Caleb Getschmann	<b>03/24</b>	Marc Anderson
<b>03/10</b>	Diane Fick		Stephanie Froisland
<b>03/11</b>	Jayden Munsch	<b>03/25</b>	Gene Bergstrom
<b>03/13</b>	Bob Shanks		Jan Sackreiter
	Jason Melbostad		Arissa Wilson
<b>03/14</b>	Dustin Sawyer	<b>03/26</b>	Dick Rasmussen
	Matthew Sackreiter		Craig Beck
<b>03/15</b>	Michelle Wendt	<b>03/27</b>	Tina Wangen
	Tara Ellinghuysen		Eliza Norregaard
	Jonny Weinrich		Angalee Schmidt
<b>03/16</b>	Reed VanHove	<b>03/28</b>	Roger Rettmann
	Leda Tangen	<b>03/29</b>	Marget Christison
	Isaac Woestehoff	<b>03/30</b>	Sheryl Benike
<b>03/17</b>	Gary Melbostad		Danica Ferk
	Gary Tesmer		Greg Naschansky
	Kate Burke	<b>03/31</b>	Kristin Melbostad
<b>03/18</b>	Mitchell Balcome		

## Anniversaries

<b>03/15</b>	Allen & Dawn Breuer
<b>03/23</b>	Ron & Betty Fahrenz
<b>03/26</b>	Jim & June Barnick
<b>03/31</b>	Dick & Kay Rasmussen

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

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*It isn't the load that weighs us down – it is the way we carry it.*

## MARCH 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> communion  8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 9:15 am TIF – 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade 9:30 am Adult Forum with Carole Joyce 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>2</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>3</b>  9:00 am Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Worship & Music	<b>4</b>  5:30 pm Education Meeting 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 5:30 pm Baby Blanket Making 6:00 pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>5</b>  3:30 pm Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 9:15 am TIF – 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade 9:30 am Adult Forum (Book of Mark) 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>9</b> Pastor's Day Off  2:30 pm Girl Scouts	<b>10</b>  9:00 am Staff Meeting   <b>PASTOR ON VAC</b>	<b>11</b>  5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir  ----->	<b>12</b>     ----->	<b>13</b>     ----->	<b>14</b>     ----->
<b>15</b> communion  8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 9:15 am TIF – 3 Year Olds 9:30 am Adult Forum (Mark) 10:30 am Worship Service  ----->	<b>16</b> Pastor's Day Off    <b>PASTOR RETURNS</b>	<b>17</b>  9:00 am Staff Meeting	<b>18</b>  5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 9:15 am TIF – 3 Year Olds 9:30 am Adult Forum (Mark) 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>23</b> Pastor's Day Off  2:30 pm Girl Scouts 5:00 pm Parent's Grp Outing @ House of Bounce	<b>24</b>  9:00 am Staff Meeting	<b>25</b>  5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> communion  8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 9:15 am TIF – 4 Year Olds 9:30 am Adult Forum (Mark) 10:30 am Worship Service 4:30 pm Council Retreat	<b>30</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>31</b>  9:00 – 1:00 Pastor at Zumbro Conf.				



**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 April 2009 Newsletter is**

***SUNDAY, MARCH 22.***