

The Shepherd's Staff

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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 Misty Biers (876-2827) or Pat Hanson-Haack (534-3088) during the month of April.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 5 Palm/Passion Sunday**
8:00 & 10:30 a.m. worship
- April 9 Maundy Thursday with First Communion**
7:00 p.m. worship
- April 10 Good Friday**
7:00 p.m. worship
- April 12 Easter Sunday**
8:00 & 10:30 a.m. worship

Holy Week is the cornerstone of our worship life. We celebrate the God who comes to us in Jesus. We join the palm waving crowds that welcomed Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem, and we also join the crowds who drift away and turn against our Lord. We experience Jesus who knows our deepest needs, and recall his power being stripped away on Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday we come to a time of overwhelming discouragement, failure, and grief, as our Lord's dead body is taken from the cross. On Easter day we come with anticipation knowing that Christ was raised from the dead, and that we may face each day's challenge with hope and courage.

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Our last Wednesday night meal and "That You May Have Life" worship service will be on April 1st.

Sunday, April 26th from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Marilyn Sharpe, from the Youth and Family Institute, will be here at Good Shepherd. She will teach us about what it means to grow in faith in our everyday lives at home and in the word.

ENLARGING THE CIRCLE OF MINISTRY

The Space Crunch at Good Shepherd

As a church we are called to be a partner in carrying out God's work in the world. We are pursuing our calling to grow deeper in faith and deeper in service to the world. To carry out our ministry we utilize the tools of programming, staffing, finances, and facility. I'd like to draw your attention to some barriers to ministry growth that we are facing with our facility.

In recent years we have went from no youth group to a regular group of 12 or more students meeting weekly. In order to grow this ministry, we transformed half of the "music room" into a "youth room" to provide a place for Wednesday night gatherings. The Children's Choir moved out of the "music room" in order to accommodate the Youth Ministry. Our Children's Choir director, Mrs. Keseley, spruced up the northeast corner of the fellowship hall to provide an area for Wednesday night rehearsals. This concession by the Children's Choir provides a free space for the youth group, but it means the choir rehearses within feet of the sights and sounds of twenty some people talking and sharing in the Wednesday night junior high meal. To free up the fellowship hall for the choir, the Jr. High finishes eating and shuffles to the sanctuary for the large group/small group learning time. When the junior high finishes in the sanctuary, the Adult Choir is waiting for them to leave the sanctuary so they can begin their choir rehearsal.

During Lent, we have enjoyed eating meals in the fellowship hall. Most of us haven't felt the space pinch during this time. But how would we have enjoyed dining if we would have continued to have Confirmation and Children's Choir in the same space. To accommodate the meal, Confirmation didn't meet, and the nomadic children's choir has been meeting in the sanctuary.

As we pursue our calling to grow deeper in faith, we are committed to offering weekly adult faith growth opportunities. Where would another bible study or small group meet on a Wednesday night? Our ministry committees have found that Wednesday nights is often the only available evening to meet. Where should they meet?

Sunday mornings also have their share of space issues. Our nursery is used as a classroom for Parents and students in the Together In Faith classes. The fellowship hall is the home for our kindergarten through 8th grade classes. Outsiders quickly find this space is very noisy with lots of distractions. As insiders we don't know what we are missing because our teachers have adapted to the only space we've known, a noisy environment without any fixed walls separating the classrooms. While we celebrate having a space for senior high youth on Wednesday night, we do not have a place for our senior high students to gather together on Sunday mornings (That space is used for pre-school). We don't even realize that we are lacking in this area, because we've never had it.

Our vision calls us to grow in faith from cradle to grave. In 2009 we have made a commitment to provide some type of adult faith growth opportunity. How do we live that out on Sunday morning? In our current situation, we do not prioritize a space for adult faith growth opportunities. Instead, the adults meet if there is space available. The Cherub Choir meets in the sanctuary from 9:15-9:30 because there is no longer a "music room. If there is no other activity taking place in the sanctuary than the adult forums can begin in the sanctuary after the cherub choir is finished singing.

All these ministries are good things! We are growing in the number of ministry groups meeting and programs taking place. Having a space crunch is a good problem to have! It beats having lots of space, but no one present for worship, learning, fellowship, and service. Our average weekly worship attendance has grown from 113 to 167 in the past five years, and our circle of ministry is indeed enlarging -- all good things. However, our current space situation is stifling future growth for ministry. It is time to be addressing these ministry concerns.

To guide us in best utilizing our facility and understanding the cost of facility shortcomings and long-term needs, Good Shepherd is anticipating a Space Utilization Study to be carried out in the Fall. In mid-April the church council will be conducting interviews of potential firms.

Blessings as we continue in ministry,
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Wednesday Night Schedule

- April 8** 8th grade students and parents make confirmation stoles
April 15 Learning Night – Pentecost
April 22 Learning Night – Sent out to serve
April 29 Fellowship Night / 8th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal
May 3 Affirmation of Baptism Worship Service for 8th Graders (10:30 a.m.)

Confirmation Ministry

The Service of “Affirmation of Baptism” also known as “Confirmation” will take place on **Sunday, May 3rd, 2009 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Confirmation pictures** will be taking place in the sanctuary the morning of **Sunday, May 3rd from 9:15-10:15 a.m.** We ask confirmands and their parents to attend **confirmation rehearsal on Wednesday, April 29th**. We will have a meal together at 6 p.m., and the rehearsal will begin around 6:30 p.m.

5th GRADE FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion

Fifth Graders who have received “First Communion” training with their parents will be receiving their **first communion at 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship on April 9th**. Blessings to this group of students and parents as they celebrate this milestone!

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Wednesday Night Schedule

Youth Group will resume meeting from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15th.

- April 15** Music Night
April 22 Peer Ministry
April 29 Nooma Video

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,,,

NEW MEMBERS

New Member Potluck

On a weekly basis our congregation is blessed with people who are worshiping at Good Shepherd for the first time, as well as returning worshipers who are relatively new and getting to know the ministry of Good Shepherd. **An orientation to Good Shepherd's ministry will be held Sunday, April 19th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm** 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.

We would like to again develop a new member bulletin board, so plan on having your picture taken also on the night of April 19th. **New members will be received during Sunday morning worship on April 26th.** 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 lynn.goodshepherd@embarqmail.com.

WOMEN'S GROUP

On March 20th, a group of women/young ladies met at O'Neill's Pizza for supper. Then we journeyed on to Bethel Lutheran Church where we met up with the rest of the group to see the play "The Promise of Rochester 2009". This was a fantastic musical-drama about the life of Jesus Christ – very inspiring and thought provoking.

The next event for the Women's Group will be serving an evening meal at the Hope Lodge in Rochester on Thursday evening, April 30th. Watch the announcements for more information and the "Count Me In" form for sign-up.

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

SMALL GROUPS

Small Group Leader Appreciation

A small group leader appreciation will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to thank those who act in leadership roles in one or more of the many ongoing small groups here at Good Shepherd. Dessert will be served and we will discuss ways to sustain these important ministries. Letters of invitation will be mailed.

BOX PROJECT UPDATE

E-mail received on 3-4-9

Dear Lonnie,

We received the boxes. Thanks so much. Monique went to the ball in February. I will send pictures as soon as they come back. Thanks again for your help. She looked so nice.

Love, Jeanette

EDUCATION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting Wednesday, April 1 (5:45-6:45pm)

Help plan for VBS! Come to a **VBS planning meeting on Wednesday, April 1 from 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.** We will talk about the format, theme, and who would like to do what. Invite anyone else who might want to be involved in VBS to come too! More people mean more fun for us all! The theme is "Vine and Branches" so starting thinking creatively about growing--plants, faith... FYI: VBS will be June 1-3 from 6:00 - 7:45 p.m. Kids (ages 3 years old-4th grade) are invited to come with a parent or other caring adult for an intergenerational time of learning and fun.

VBS Registration Begins Now!

All children age 3 through 4th grade are invited to participate in "Vine and Branches" VBS on June 1-3 from 6:00 - 7:45 p.m. A registration form is included in the newsletter. Please register between now and May 1st so we can order supplies and plan. Kids, bring a caring adult (parent, grandparent, aunt, neighbor...) so we can have some fun across the generations. Anyone older than 5th grade is encouraged to participate too as a helper or caring adult. Be sure to watch for the surprise which will be growing in the church!

PROPERTY

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 and encouraged.

We have highlighted the following teams: Education, Worship and Music, Congregational Life and Youth, Missions and Stewardship, and Finance. This month we highlight the last of our six general teams - **Property.**

The **Property Team** oversees the property of the church. They oversee the maintenance and cleaning of the building, all related equipment, and the grounds. This team is responsible for lawn mowing, snow removal, painting, cleaning, repairs, parking lot, inventory of church equipment and a maintenance schedule. This team has a HUGE job and is in need of more volunteers to serve on small work teams or ministries.

Arlo Simonson has just begun his work as chairperson and council representative of this team. He is putting together a team of folks who are interested in helping him and serving Good Shepherd in the area of property. This team will be taking a look at the building to determine what some of the needs are and then determine how and when to meet those needs. If you have electrical skills, plumbing skills, carpenter skills, building skills or just general maintenance skills and are willing to help on a property team, contact Arlo Simonson.

There are some groups that have already formed within this team. They are: the Garden Club, our Lawn Mowers, the Snow Removal Crew, the Kitchen Committee, and our Painters. Our custodian is also a part of this team. You are welcome to join any of these teams that you may be interested in.

Each Sunday in April in the worship bulletin we will highlight one or two of these areas to let you know what they do and who is involved. As this team continues to organize there will be new opportunities for ministry. Watch for these and consider how you might use your gifts to help out at Good Shepherd and serve God.

“Thank You” to all who currently serve on this team or in one of its ministries. “Thank You” to Arlo for taking on the task of being our chairperson and leader in this area. We appreciate all the work and time it takes to carry out the tasks of caring for our property - the building and the grounds. God gave us the gift of this land and building and caring for it is no small task. It requires the help of many. In our care of our property we show God our gratitude. Thank you to all who have silently volunteered their time in the care of our property. We may not always know who these folks are but God does and to all of them He says, “Well done, my good and faithful servants.”

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

MARILYN SHARPE Calling All Caring Adults...

If you've ever wondered about how to more effectively talk about God and share faith with the children and youth in your lives, then we have an opportunity for you! **Sunday, April 26th from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, Marilyn Sharpe, from the Youth and Family Institute, will teach us about what it means to grow in faith in our everyday lives at home and in the world.



Marilyn Sharpe--grandparent, parent educator, trainer, and writer--will challenge us to grow deeper in our home faith connections. She is committed to helping parents become the best and most effective they can be. She helps parents and congregations work together to pass on faith and values to the children we all cherish. All generations bring gifts to the body of Christ and connecting them is essential! Those who have heard this well know speaker before know that her stories, humor, practical ideas and energy will inspire us all. Parents, grandparents, SS teachers, trip chaperones, caring adults, council members, and caring youth are all encouraged to attend this exciting event.

Marilyn's schedule of events:

8:00 a.m. Take part in the worship service

9:15 a.m. Adult Forum: Passing on Faith Wherever We Are: Why Does This Matter?

God never meant to keep faith formation inside the walls of the congregation. But the better we have done with worship, Sunday school, confirmation, and adult education, the more we have felt that passing on faith is the work of the church. Scripture, research, and our lived experience tells us something different: all of us are called to stir up faith wherever we are. How can we do that? Why does it matter? Come and learn easy ways to braid faith nurture into everyday life.

10:30 a.m. Take part in the worship service

11:30 a.m. Lunch and presentation: Being the Adults Our Kids Need Us to Be: Triple-A Christians

Triple-A Christians: what is that? These are adults who are authentic in their faith, available to children and youth, and affirming of each child's identity as a child of God, beloved and forgiven. Research tells us that our youth's faith is virtually identical to that of the trusted adults in their lives. But, most adults don't have a mature, vibrant faith to pass on, to transform the lives of our kids. Which adults are responsible? All of us. God doesn't exempt any of us from this responsibility and opportunity. You are called by Jesus to "go make disciples." Together, we'll learn ways to be the adults our kids need us to be: authentic, available, and affirming. Come and learn. Leave equipped and inspired to make a difference.

(Some folks from Mount Olive in Rochester will be joining us for this part of the day.)

2:00 p.m. Leave for home

Please sign up in the narthex or on the "Count Me In" form so we know how many to plan a menu for.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

04/01	Carol Goergen-Fenske	04/15	Tyson Anderson
04/02	Stacy Hutchison	04/16	Hunter Goergen
04/03	Mackenzie Boraas		Tanner Goergen
04/05	Shannah Sexton	04/17	Braden Melbostad
04/06	Jamie Kappauf	04/19	Ryan Endres
04/07	Marilee Sexton		Trinity Anderson
	Linda Olson	04/20	Mitchell Breuer
	Chris Fasching	04/22	Doug Mahoney
	Matthew Axelson	04/23	Kevin Gudmundson
04/08	Jeremy McMillin		Andrew Masee
	Lauren Rohlik		Xander Henderson
	Kelsey Petit	04/24	Ryan Sawyer
04/09	Patrick Petit	04/25	Julie Herrmann
	Kathy Rohlik	04/26	Ben Peter
	Kent Kingsley		Katy Johnson
	Kareen Bigalk		Sarah Nienow
	Stacy Johnson	04/27	Michelle Gudmundson
	Ben Albers		Char Balcome
	Dylon Flattum		Jen Peter
04/10	Keith Fuerstneau		Kellie Nienow
04/12	Joe Ulwelling		Samantha VanHove
04/13	Doris Johnson	04/29	Lily Bartz
04/14	Steve Sawyer		Shannon Ramthun
	Pastor Kevin	04/30	Kay Rasmussen
	Brande Ackman		Sarah Hassig
	McKenzie Rau		

Anniversaries

04/05	Paul & Karla Appel	04/23	Nathan & Betty Norregaard
04/12	Bill & Laurie Albers	04/24	Al & Franny Schwantz
04/22	Fran & Sheila Grover		Thor & Tina Erickson
	Roger & Cindy Rettmann		

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

***Faith doesn't get you around trouble.
It gets you through it.***

APRIL 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:30 pm Education Meeting 5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper 5:45 pm VBS Planning Meeting 6:00 pm Garden Club Meeting 6:00 pm Congregational Life 6:00 pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	2 3:30 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Exec Committee	3	4
5 communion PALM SUNDAY 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 9:15 am TIF-4 yr olds & parents 9:30 am Adult Forum (Book of Mark) 10:30 am Worship Service 11:30 am Parent's Group	6 Pastor's Day Off 2:30 pm Girl Scouts	7 9:00 am Staff Meeting	8 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	9 7:00 pm Worship Services with First Communion Maundy Thursday	10 7:00 pm Worship Services Good Friday	11
12 communion EASTER 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 9:00 am Staff Meeting	15 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth	16 5:30 pm Space Utilization Study Interviews 6:30 pm Cub Scout Meeting	17	18
19 communion 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service with Baptism 5:30 pm New Member Potluck	20 Pastor's Day Off 2:30 pm Girl Scouts	21 9:00 am Staff Meeting	22 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth	23 6:30 pm Girl Scout Meeting	24	25
26 8:00 am Worship Service 9:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship Hour 10:30 am Worship Service 11:30 am Lunch and presentation by Marilyn Sharpe New Member Sunday	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 9:00 – 1:00 Pastor at Zumbro Conf.	29 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Children's Choir 7:00 pm Small Group Leader Appreciation 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Senior High Youth	30 6:00 pm Women's Group at Hope Lodge		

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 May 2009 Newsletter is

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22.