

The Shepherd's Staff

November 2009

Issue 116

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 Joyce Christensen (876-2385) or Misty Biers (876-2827) during the month of November.

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“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

We are called to grow deeper in faith and deeper in service.

Since May 31st we have been living in the season of Pentecost. A season marked by the color green and focuses on growth. Our days of Pentecost are coming to an end this month. As we look at life in the outdoors we see crops, and plants, and flowers die after being touched by the killing frost. Does God still bring growth and life at this time?

We are entering into the Season of Advent. A season that reminds us to keep our eyes open and to anticipate Christ's presence. We can anticipate Christ's presence even when, and especially when, all we see is darkness and death.

I think of those who struggle with depression and seasonal affect disorder as we enter into November and say goodbye to daylight savings time. May you know that Christ continues to come into your life. God will continue to bring growth and life!

There are countless situations where we feel sure that the worst is upon us. Yet, Christ continues to show up and God continues to bring growth and life.

The ultimate event in the Christian faith is Jesus being killed on the cross. How could there be a darker day than that? Yet it is through the cross that Christ has brought forgiveness, resurrection and new life. God continues to bring growth and life.

There are indeed challenges in our life together. We have a very diverse Christian church on earth. Even within our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) there is a great diversity of congregations and members. Long before resolutions were voted on in regards to same-gender relationships, thoughtful, prayerful, bible reading Christian people had come to very different conclusions in their discernment of these issues.

Church policies are made for the sake of providing order. They also have a way of drawing lines that separate people into positions over and against one another. This is a sign of our fallen human nature. Therefore, this is a vulnerable and sensitive time. We may feel there is no way through this, but God's track record says differently. God continues to bring growth and life.

When the children of Israel returned from exile, they began to reorganize an enclave of the faithful. The Lord, in Isaiah, gave them an even greater commission. "I have called you to be a light to the nations." Focusing on how faithful they were was "too light a thing to restore Israel."

In Acts, the Christian community was divided over the issue of circumcision. There were epic levels of unrest as Jewish converts saw Gentile Christian practices fly in the face of the Law and the traditions of Moses. However, the council at Jerusalem did not wait for all to be in uniformity. Instead they began by focusing on mission.

The biggest threat and barrier to God's work of bringing growth and life is when we turn inward and forget or lose focus on our calling to be a missional people. The history of the Christian church and Good Shepherd is a witness to this.

We will continue to have conversations about church policies. (Please come and share in the conversation on November 15th at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.) More than this conversation, let us put our trust in God who brings growth and life. Let us put our energy and gifts into joining in God's work in the world!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Kevin

Thanksgiving Eve ecumenical services will be held Wednesday, November 25th at 7:30 p.m. at the Trinity Evangelical Free Church

Mid-week Advent worship services will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays December 2, 9, 16, and 23.

ENLARGING THE CIRCLE OF MINISTRY

OCTOBER 4, 2009 SPACE STUDY PRESENTATION

We are thankful for the great turnout and conversation at the October 4th space utilization study conversation. Space needs were identified that impact staffing, programming, and fellowship. After looking at what our needs are, David Kane presented some drawings and ideas that showed how those space needs could be met through remodeling and building.

Next Steps: Gather information on what the estimated cost would be to complete the different phases that were presented. We will work with a contractor for the sole purpose of pricing.

CHURCH CUSTODIAN POSITION

Thank you to Kirk Axelson for his service as our custodian. Kirk has resigned after serving in this position for three years. In the coming weeks, the custodian position will be posted and applicants will be considered.

DISCUSSIONS OF THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY THAT ACCOMPANIED THE SOCIAL STATEMENT HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT AND TRUST

On November 15th, we will use our adult education time for a discussion and informational meeting on the resolutions passed at the churchwide assembly.

The four resolutions that passed initiate a process to bring changes in church policy. The resolutions and human sexuality statement, as well as other resources, can be found on the ELCA web site: elca.org. Resolution one allows congregations to bless same-sex couples if they so choose. Resolution two commits the ELCA to a process of "finding a way" for homosexual pastors and rostered leaders in committed relationships to serve congregations that may wish to extend a call. Resolutions three and four acknowledge that we are not in agreement on these issues in the church and summarizes the complexity of moving forward while calling all to respect and trust.

Here are some important facts to keep in mind as we talk and consider what this means. The Lutheran Church is congregational. The local congregation is the center of mission in our church structure. **Each Lutheran congregation has, and will always have, complete control regarding who they call as a pastor. Each Lutheran congregation has, and will always have, complete control in setting local policy.**

As we continue to have conversations and anticipate our time together on November 15th, I will conclude with an invitation from the ELCA's Presiding Bishop, Mark Hanson, offered after the vote: "I invite you into important, thoughtful, prayerful conversation about what all of this means for our life in mission together. What is absolutely important for me is that we have this conversation together. We meet one another finally -- not in our agreements or our disagreements -- but at the foot of the cross, where God is faithful, where Christ is present with us, and where, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are one in Christ."

Together in Christ,
Pastor Kevin Woestehoff

EDUCATION

ADULT EDUCATION

We are never too old for Sunday school. Baptism begins a LIFELONG journey with Jesus Christ. One part of that journey is continuing to study the Bible and think about life's big questions in relationship to our faith. With that in mind, an exciting year of adult education opportunities has been planned for both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings for Good Shepherd adults. All adults are encouraged to attend.

Sunday mornings start with coffee and fellowship at 9:15 a.m. Then gather in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. for the following topics:

November 1	Funeral Planning A look at planning for a funeral. What can be done ahead of time to carry out your wishes, reflect your faith, and let your plans be made known.
November 8	Gospel of Luke
November 15	Discussions of the resolutions passed at the churchwide assembly that accompanied the social statement human sexuality: gift & trust.
November 22	Gospel of Luke
November 29	ospel of Luke
December 6	Gospel of Luke
December 13	Gospel of Luke

Pastor Kevin will lead the five weeks on a study of the Gospel of Luke. Luke's gospel will be the main gospel readings that we hear during the coming church year that begins with the first Sunday of Advent on November 29th. Luke writes with a message that is for everyone! Luke tells of a new age that has begun in which the living God is doing new things in the world!

The only Wednesday evening adult education class during November will be **November 11**, which will be the last session on Holy Baptism, which is held with the confirmation class at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Mark you calendar now for the Sunday school Christmas program. It will be presented at the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, December 20. You won't want to miss hearing the story of Jesus' birth as told by our Sunday school children!

EDUCATION CONTINUED ...

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation ministry meets every Wednesday night from 6:00 -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.

October Schedule

November 4
November 11
November 18
November 25

Host Family for Meals

First Wednesday Meal
Tradup Family
Folkert Family
No confirmation

WORSHIP & MUSIC

ADVENT

Believe it or not, Advent is just around the corner! Advent, the season of watching and waiting for our Savior's birth begins on Sunday, November 29. Devotions will be available for families with children AND for adults. Pick up yours that weekend. Take one home to help you reflect on the meaning of Jesus' birth.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH

FIRST WEDNESDAYS

Join us for food, education, a committee meeting or two, or just fellowship as we continue *First Wednesdays* at Good Shepherd. On November 4th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., the Amazing Grays will serve dinner in the fellowship hall. A free will offering will be collected (suggested donation of \$5.00/adult or \$3.00/children 8 and under). All proceeds will go toward the engraving of baptismal medallions. Everyone is invited.

Committee chairs and small group leaders, please plan to hold your regular meetings on *First Wednesdays*, the first Wednesday of each month. Let the church office know as soon as you have established a time and please make all of your committee members aware of this ASAP. Also think about where you plan to meet, as we hope to have several meetings taking place that evening. If you have members who are involved in more than one committee, you may wish to hold your meeting earlier or later to accommodate those members.

Pastor Kevin plans to be available to attend a portion of each meeting as needed, but for this to happen, communication is key. Join with us as we strive to grow deeper in faith and deeper in service. Let's fill the walls of Good Shepherd on *First Wednesdays*.

The committees that will be meeting on November 4th and the times they will meet are listed below:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>MEETING TIMES</u>	<u>MEETING PLACE</u>
Congregational Life	5:30 pm	Narthex
Worship & Music	5:30 pm	Fellowship hall
Confirmation	6:00 – 7:30 pm	Fellowship hall/Sanctuary
Education Committee	6:30 pm	Nursery
Senior High Youth Parents	6:30 pm	Youth Room
Graduation Milestones	7:00 pm	Nursery
Senior High Youth	7:30 pm	Youth Room

FIRST WEDNESDAY MEALS

Is your group, committee or team willing to prepare a dinner on a Wednesday evening at Good Shepherd? These dinners will be served from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. A free will offering will be collected (suggested donation of \$5.00/adult, \$3.00/children 8 and under). This money can be used to fund a project or be donated to a cause of the groups choosing. If your group is interested in serving a meal, please indicate on the "Count Me In" form. Available dates are January 6, April 7, and May 5. Please consider joining the fun on *First Wednesdays* by preparing a meal for your church family at Good Shepherd.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED ...

GRADUATION MILESTONE

Milestones are a way we connect important moments in our every day life with our faith in God. We will meet on Wednesday, November 4th at 7:00 p.m. to talk more about the graduation milestone. One idea is to wrap our graduates in God's love by making a simple quilt or blanket for them. Please come and join the discussion on November 4th. Share ideas. Volunteer to help. If you have questions, contact Carole Joyce at 288-0551 or 269-9374.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Senior High Youth Ministry – A good thing growing! (Grades 9-12)

The senior high youth meet every Wednesday evening from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. All senior high youth are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Aluminum Can Collection

The senior high youth continue to collect aluminum cans. 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!

MILESTONE MOMENTS

Baptism...

Blessings to Hannah Diane Gelner, who was baptized on October 4, 2009. Hannah is the daughter of Chad and Jill Gelner.

Blessings to Gavin Alden Wilhelmson, who was baptized on October 11, 2009. Gavin is the son of Quintin and Sarah Wilhelmson.

Blessings to Zoey Alice Ziebell, who was baptized on October 18, 2009. Zoey is the daughter of Chad and Alicia Ziebell.

Blessing to Nora Kay Henry, who was baptized on October 25, 2009. Nora is the daughter of Jeff and Shelley Henry.

New Members (October 25, 2009)...

Justin and Jen Gusa
Mike, Sherry, and Annaliese Tuxen
Jeff and Jen Sadler

Good Shepherd is stronger with your partnership in the ministry!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED ...

COOKIE WALK DECEMBER 5 7:30 – 11:00 A.M.

Do you know what you plan on baking for the cookie walk? If not, start planning now, as it is only one month away.

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 5:00 – 8:00 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 a.m., 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 (876-2253 or frannyschwantz@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

Also, the Senior High Youth are collecting Christmas "treasures", which will be sold during the cookie walk on December 5th. As you are going through your decorations, please think about donating those items you no longer want or need to benefit our youth. Items can be left in the youth room and need to be at the church before November 17th. All proceeds will help fund the 2010 Senior High Youth mission trip.

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER IN DECEMBER

On Wednesday, December 2nd, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., there will be a taco buffet with the proceeds going to Amber Benike of Elgin. Amber was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in September of this year and is currently going through chemotherapy. Amber is the wife of Jeremiah Benike and his parents are Don & Sheryl Benike of Good Shepherd. They have two young daughters, Emma age 4 and Olivia 18 months. Jeremiah was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2008. For more information on the Benike family you can visit caringbridge.org/visit/amberbenike or caringbridge.org/visit/jeremiahbenike. Anyone who would like to help with this dinner should contact Stacy Hutchison, 876-1174 or shutch@embarqmail.com.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/YOUTH CONTINUED ...

THE SHARING TREE

It is almost time to put up this year's Sharing Tree. This will be the 4th year that we have been able to provide support for families working through the Plainview Food Shelf. So far we have helped 23 families and with the increased need at the food shelf, we will increase our number of families again this year. Later in the month you will find a tree in the narthex covered with gift tags. We'd like you and your family to take a tag (or 2) from the tree and shop for the person or item/items on the tag. Bring your wrapped gift with the gift tag attached back to Good Shepherd and place it under the big tree in the front of church. More details will be coming soon. Thanks in advance for all your support!

We welcome anyone who would like to help make gift tags, decorate the tree etc. Please contact Betty Fahrenz (876-2961) or Bonnie McMillin (507-767-3310).

MISSIONS & STEWARDSHIP

2009-2010 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!

OPERATIONS CHRISTMAS CHILD

Would you still like to participate in our fall missions project, Operation Christmas Child, which sends a shoebox filled with small gifts and other items to a child in a Third World country that would otherwise not receive a gift at Christmas)? If so, you have until November 8th to fill your shoeboxes and get them to the church. Along with the shoeboxes, the parent organization, Samaritan's Purse, distributes Bibles and other literature and teaches the children about Jesus. Information packets are available in the narthex.

COMMUNITY

Everyone is welcome!

Memorial Benefit for
Gerald Timm

BJ's Bar & Grill

@ Whippoorwill Kampground - Plainview, MN

Saturday, November 14, 2009

Noon **till gone**

Bar B Q Chicken Fry

(Prepared by the Wabasha Fire Department)

Live Auction begins @ 2:00 p.m.

Bake Sale, Silent Auction

Music by Captain Jack to follow the live auction!

We need donations for the Silent/Live auction & Bake Sale!

Monetary donations can be made at Peoples State Bank, Plainview – Gerald Timm Benefit

If you have silent and live auction donations please contact:

Donnie & Cindy Lien – 534-3274 - dlien@mywdo.com

Bake sale items for the benefit are needed: Holiday cookies, candies, bars, donuts, muffins, breads, sweet breads, rolls or pastries and snack mixes. **DO NOT BRING** pies, cut out cookies or items that need refrigeration. (There is a group making pies and cut out cookies already) Bake sale donations can be brought to the Christian Life Center/Immanuel Lutheran Church or BJ's Bar and Grill @ Whippoorwill Kampground beginning Friday, November 13th at Noon until Saturday, November 14th by 9:00 a.m.

Supplemental funding has been applied for from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Menu:

Bar B Q Chicken
Buns
Baked Potato
Corn
Homemade Pie

COMMUNITY Continued...

"LIGHTS FOR LIFE"

On Saturday, December 5th 2009, Plainview will celebrate Olde Fashioned Christmas and "Lights for Life" the beautiful luminary display which raises funds for the American Cancer Society.

Luminaries may be purchased to honor a cancer survivor or remember a loved one who has passed. You may purchase a luminary or make a donation following church on Sunday, November 1, 8, 15, 22 or 29. Luminaries are \$5.00 each and are tax deductible. Donations are also accepted. Please contact Karen Jurgenson if you have any questions.

Please join us for the opening ceremony at Wedgwood Park on Saturday, December 5th at 4:15 p.m. Steve Wolf, a Plainview resident, will be our guest speaker. Steve is a long term cancer survivor who will share his story and positive message with us. Following the ceremony, we welcome you to stroll the path of lights from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. and see how many lives cancer has affected in our area.

PLAINVIEW-ELGIN-MILLVILLE BULLDOG FOOTBALL QUARTERBACK CLUB

The PEM Bulldog Football Quarterback Club will be presenting a night at Goonie's Comedy Club (7 Second Street SE in Rochester) on Monday, November 30, 2009. The QB Club is raising money for new facilities at the Elgin Field. We hope to have the facilities in place prior to next year's football season, but we need your support to raise the funds. The project will include a new base, bleachers, and press box.

There are many ways you can help: donate silent auction items, consider being a Gold, Silver, or Bronze sponsor, come to the show, or make a cash donation.

Gold Sponsors:	\$500 (includes buffet and show for 4)
Silver Sponsors:	\$250 (includes buffet and show for 2)
Bronze Sponsors:	\$100 (cash donation only)
General Admission:	\$ 30 (includes buffet and show for 1)
	Tickets one week prior to show are \$40.

You won't want to miss out on the great night of comedy. The night will start out with a buffet (BBQ pork sandwiches, quesadillas, boneless chicken, and Greek wraps), raffle and silent auction (bidding from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.). After the announcement of the winners of the raffle and auction items, the comedy show (3 acts) will start (7:30 – 9:00. Come out and have a night of friends, food, and fun while supporting a great cause!

Can't make the show? Consider making a cash donation in memory or honor of someone.

There is limited seating, so make sure to get your tickets early. Tickets can be purchased from any member of the QB club (Mark Bartsch, Tim Stelow, Carol Goergen-Fenske, Tim Scanlon, Katherine Speer, Bill Ihrke, Andy Bernard, Jake Thompson, Bryan Brighton, and Kenny & Stacy Hutchison), coaches, or in person at Greenwood Agency in Plainview. Go to www.pemfootball.com or contact Stacy directly at 876-1176 or shutch@embargmail.com for more information.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

11/03	Dillon Beck	11/19	Kenny Hutchison
11/04	Tommy Weinrich	11/20	Tammy Van Hove
11/05	Andrea Getschmann		Stephanie Lundeen
11/06	Gregg Luebke		Autumn Deyo
11/09	Donna Tesch	11/21	Clark Olstad
	Addison Nesler		Alice Henderson
11/10	Emily Scripture	11/24	Jon Olmstead
11/11	Allen Sexton	11/25	George Back
	Barb Petit		Paula Wheeler
	Mary Tesmer	11/27	Jill Kobler
11/16	Howard Haugstad	11/30	Don Benike
	Robyn Wilson		Andrea Fasching
	Mariah Henry		

Anniversaries

11/02	Frank & Julene Horstman
11/05	Robert & Robyn Wilson
11/27	Al & Randi Fravert
11/28	Kevin & Cindy Fuerstneau

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*To succeed, you need 3 bones:
a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone.*

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

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 December 2009 Newsletter is

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22.